

Medicare Administrative Contractor Jurisdiction 4

★ J4 MAC Schedule

CMS J4 A/B MAC Implementation Schedule

On August 2, 2007, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the selection of TrailBlazer to administer the Jurisdiction 4 (J4) A/B Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) claims processes for both Part A and Part B Medicare Fee-for-Service (FFS) in Texas, New Mexico, Colorado and Oklahoma.

TrailBlazer will assume responsibility for the MAC Colorado, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas segments (states) based on the tentative segment-specific cutover dates below. Because TrailBlazer currently has responsibility for processing over 75 percent of the J4 MAC workload as the Part A Fiscal Intermediary (FI) for the states of Colorado, New Mexico and Texas, as well as the Part B carrier in Texas, it is anticipated that the impact to those providers already served by TrailBlazer will be minimal. The CMS has not yet announced an implementation date for the providers in J4 served by Wisconsin Physicians Service (Mutual of Omaha).

The CMS requires that the entire J4 MAC (Part A and B) combined workload segment cutovers be completed no later than August 1, 2008. There are eight FFS workloads in J4 that are divided into four separate segments. The tentative (CMS has not released final approval notice) segment schedule identifies current outgoing contractors, segment states and earliest allowable implementation activity start dates and final cutover dates. TrailBlazer will transition each workload segment in sequential order in accordance with the final approved segment implementation schedule.

J4 MAC Implementation Segment Schedule

Sequence	J4 Segments	States	Earliest Allowable Cutover Date
1	HCSC FI – Part A	Oklahoma	3/3/2008
2	Arkansas Carrier – Part B	New Mexico, Oklahoma	3/3/2008
3	Noridian Carrier – Part B	Colorado	3/21/2008

Sequence	J4 Segments	States	Earliest Allowable Cutover Date
4	TrailBlazer FI/Carrier – Part A and B	Texas, New Mexico, Colorado	6/13/2008

For information regarding other MAC implementation schedules, please visit the Medicare reform Web site:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareContractingReform/>

★ J4 MAC Implementation Goals

Goals for a Successful MAC Implementation

All of the organizations involved in an implementation of workload transition have a responsibility to ensure that the changeover is successful. Each partner has different roles and responsibilities during a transition, but common goals remain the same:

- There is minimal disruption to beneficiaries.
- There is minimal disruption to providers, physicians and suppliers.
- There is no disruption of claims processing and Medicare operations.
- The transition is completed on schedule within the required time period.
- All parties with an interest in the MAC changeover (whether direct or indirect) are kept informed of the implementation status and progress.

★ J4 MAC Resources

TrailBlazer has posted additional implementation information on the J4 Web site that will provide implementation-specific details for interested parties.

[Welcome to TrailBlazer](#)

<http://www.trailblazerhealth.com/Publications/Job%20Aid/J4WelcometoTrailBlazer.pdf?DomainID=4>

[J4 MAC Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations](#)

http://www.trailblazerhealth.com/Publications/Job%20Aid/Glossary_of_Terms_and_Abbreviations.pdf?DomainID=4

[J4 MAC Implementation Overview](#)

<http://www.trailblazerhealth.com/Publications/Job%20Aid/OverviewofJ4MACImplementation.pdf?DomainID=4>

[J4 MAC Communication Plans](#)

<http://www.trailblazerhealth.com/Publications/Job%20Aid/TrailBlazerCommunicationPlans.pdf?DomainID=4>

New [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) have been posted to the J4 Web site. Additional FAQs will continue to be added as they are received and approved by CMS.

★ J4 MAC Education

Because the J4 multiple state segment implementation time frames are tight and no system changes are involved that require major retraining, TrailBlazer proposed an implementation plan that will focus on the primary J4 implementation goal of ensuring this change is as seamless as possible and provides no disruption of service to beneficiaries and providers.

While TrailBlazer agrees that nothing replaces face-to-face contact with our provider community, and we all feel strongly about beginning seminars and other local contact opportunities as soon as possible, we believe the best short-term success can be achieved through educational initiatives that revolve predominantly around self-service technology, Internet outreach and electronic communications.

TrailBlazer has posted [J4 MAC Provider Outreach and Education Plans](#) on the J4 Web site.
<http://www.trailblazerhealth.com/Publications/Job%20Aid/ProviderOutreachandEducationPlans.pdf?DomainID=4>

Educational opportunities are now posted on the Calendar of Events for registration.

★ J4 MAC LCDs

MACs are required to consolidate existing Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) of the outgoing carriers/intermediaries within their jurisdiction, so they are the same throughout the jurisdiction. The consolidation of LCDs was required by CMS to be completed prior to the cutover of the first segment within that jurisdiction and early enough to allow a minimum 45-day notice period. Therefore, TrailBlazer began analyzing all LCDs in Jurisdiction 4 very early in the implementation to determine their applicability jurisdiction-wide. In consolidating the LCDs, TrailBlazer is required to select the *least restrictive* LCD from the existing LCDs on a single topic and consolidate the active edits in the system.

TrailBlazer analyzed the more than 800 existing LCDs and expects to publish the resulting consolidated LCDs on the J4 MAC Implementation Web site on **Friday, December 20, 2007**. The policies may be found on the J4 MAC Web site on the Draft LCDs page under [Local Coverage Determinations](#).

<http://www.trailblazerhealth.com/Tools/Local%20Coverage%20Determinations/Default.aspx?DomainID=4>

TrailBlazer will notify providers of postings via the J4 MAC Implementation News listserv. Should physicians, practitioners, facilities, suppliers and other providers have questions or comments on the new consolidated LCDs, they may submit those to the J4 MAC inquiry e-mail box at J4MAC@trailblazerhealth.com.

★ J4 MAC EDI

EDI Enrollment

Arrangements for Medicare Electronic Media Claims (EMC) submission are specified in the standard CMS EDI Enrollment Form. A provider who wishes to establish EDI capability with any contractor must complete the standard CMS EDI enrollment form and submit it before production claims can be accepted from that provider. Current EDI providers who have completed an EDI enrollment form with the outgoing contractor will **not** need to re-enroll and complete a new form. **Existing EDI enrollment forms will be transferred to TrailBlazer** as the incoming MAC at cutover. We will make basic EMC software available free of charge to any new provider who wishes to enroll. Providers will still be responsible for line costs for their use of EDI.

Electronic Transaction Changes Associated With J4 A/B MAC

Providers must have the ability to submit claims electronically without disruption. TrailBlazer will ensure that all providers and submitters understand the changes that will take place because of the MAC implementation. Providers will be given multiple opportunities to receive the necessary training and test prior to cutover. TrailBlazer will also provide technical support for any problems associated with claims submission and EDI.

We respectfully request all submitters and vendors take time to read the following information carefully. If you are a current submitter to TrailBlazer, there will be no change to your EDI process until cutover to the J4 MAC (see document linked below). Our goal is to make the transition of your EDI billing processes as simple as possible, with minimal or no disruption.

[Notice to All Jurisdiction 4 A/B Medicare Administrative Contractor \(MAC\) Electronic Claim Submitters](#)

http://www.trailblazerhealth.com/Publications/Job%20Aid/Electronic_Claim_Submitters.pdf?DomainID=4

J4 Electronic Funds Transfer Authorization Agreements Required

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) is the methodology by which Medicare payments are transferred electronically from the MAC's bank directly to the bank account of the provider or supplier.

Letters explaining EFT requirements were mailed this week to all J4 MAC Part A and B providers that will be transitioning to TrailBlazer from Colorado, New Mexico and Oklahoma. Copies of the letters are linked on the [J4 Web site](http://www.trailblazerhealth.com/j4) - www.trailblazerhealth.com/j4 under J4 Publications on the right side navigation.

Providers and suppliers who wish to continue to receive Medicare payments via EFT **must complete a new Form CMS-588**, Authorization Agreement for Electronic Funds Transfer, prior to cutover to TrailBlazer. This is required by CMS even if TrailBlazer's financial institution is the same as that of the outgoing carrier or intermediary.

As the J4 MAC, TrailBlazer is required to obtain and retain a signed form from each provider, physician or supplier requesting EFT. As each J4 state-specific segment cutover date approaches, TrailBlazer will be personally contacting those providers who have not returned a completed CMS-588 form.

Providers will be reminded frequently that failure to complete the CMS-588 form by the final J4 cutover will end the electronic deposit of funds to their bank accounts. The only acceptable alternative to EFT is a paper check mailed by first-class mail. Provider or supplier pick-up of checks, next day delivery, express mail and courier services are not allowed unless there is a special situation that is authorized by CMS.

The requested CMS-588 form is for the continuation of existing EFT agreements. TrailBlazer cannot accept EFT changes (i.e., changes in bank routing information or authorized representative changes) prior to the planned implementation date. Providers who wish to change their established EFT information or change their current payment status must submit those changes to their legacy Medicare contractor.