

(h) *Responsibilities of the assignee.* Once the assignee files an appeal, the assignee becomes a party to the appeal. The assignee must meet all requirements for appeals that apply to any other party.

[70 FR 11472, Mar. 8, 2005, as amended at 70 FR 37702, June 30, 2005]

INITIAL DETERMINATIONS

§ 405.920 Initial determinations.

After a claim is filed with the appropriate contractor in the manner and form described in subpart C of part 424 of this chapter, the contractor must—

- (a) Determine if the items and services furnished are covered or otherwise reimbursable under title XVIII of the Act;
- (b) Determine any amounts payable and make payment accordingly; and
- (c) Notify the parties to the initial determination of the determination in accordance with § 405.921.

§ 405.921 Notice of initial determination.

(a) *Notice of initial determination sent to the beneficiary.* (1) The notice must be written in a manner calculated to be understood by the beneficiary, and sent to the last known address of the beneficiary.

(2) *Content of the notice.* The notice of initial determination must contain all of the following:

- (i) The reasons for the determination, including whether a local medical review policy, a local coverage determination, or national coverage determination was applied.
- (ii) The procedures for obtaining additional information concerning the contractor's determination, such as a specific provision of the policy, manual, law or regulation used in making the determination.
- (iii) Information on the right to a redetermination if the beneficiary is dissatisfied with the outcome of the initial determination and instructions on how to request a redetermination.
- (iv) Any other requirements specified by CMS.

(b) *Notice of initial determination sent to providers and suppliers.* (1) An electronic or paper remittance advice (RA) notice is the notice of initial deter-

mination sent to providers and suppliers that accept assignment.

(i) The electronic RA must comply with the format and content requirements of the standard adopted for national use by covered entities under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and related CMS manual instructions.

(ii) When a paper RA is mailed, it must comply with CMS manual instructions that parallel the HIPAA data content and coding requirements.

(2) The notice of initial determination must contain all of the following:

- (i) The basis for any full or partial denial determination of services or items on the claim.
- (ii) Information on the right to a redetermination if the provider or supplier is dissatisfied with the outcome of the initial determination.
- (iii) All applicable claim adjustment reason and remark codes to explain the determination.

(iv) The source of the RA and who may be contacted if the provider or supplier requires further information.

(v) All content requirements of the standard adopted for national use by covered entities under HIPAA.

(vi) Any other requirements specified by CMS.

(c) *Notice of initial determination sent to an applicable plan—*(1) *Content of the notice.* The notice of initial determination under § 405.924(b)(16) must contain all of the following:

- (i) The reasons for the determination.
- (ii) The procedures for obtaining additional information concerning the contractor's determination, such as a specific provision of the policy, manual, law or regulation used in making the determination.
- (iii) Information on the right to a redetermination if the liability insurance (including self-insurance), no-fault insurance, or workers' compensation law or plan is dissatisfied with the outcome of the initial determination and instructions on how to request a redetermination.
- (iv) Any other requirements specified by CMS.

(2) [Reserved]

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