

1st Assistant Credentialing Services

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Note from Heidi

The calendar seems to roll over faster and faster these days, but I am happy to see fall arriving. October is a great month for cooler weather and being outside, which in Texas, is a big relief to us after our very hot summer! October is also the month to breathe before the holidays hit, so I hope you get a chance to enjoy all that October offers!



1st Assistant is having a great year for partnerships. We are teaming up with more and more revenue cycle companies and consultants than ever before. We love the collaboration that this brings our two businesses, but most importantly, the advantage it affords our common clients.

Partnering with a company to extend a service offering is a win/win! To have a successful partnership you must develop close relationships and treat your clients with respect. Plus, clients are happy that their billing company has a reliable option to help with their credentialing.

Our commitment to communication and excellence means 1st Assistant can provide 1st class service to all of your clients. If you would like to learn more about our partnership opportunity, please give me a call.

Happy Fall Everyone!

Heidi

Knowledge Center, Medicare and Medicaid

CMS Issues New Affiliation Fraud Rules for Providers



Recently, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule giving the agency more authority to prevent fraud. With the new rule, CMS can reject a provider's or supplier's enrollment in Medicare, Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) if they are affiliated with businesses that have had their enrollments revoked due to fraud, abuse or waste.

Finalizing this rule has been a long drawn-out process, as it was first proposed in 2016. CMS cites provider burden concerns voiced during the proposed rule's comment period as one of the reasons for the delay.

[Read more about this new law which takes effect on November 4, 2019](#)

Knowledge Center, Medicare and Medicaid

PECOS Update Brings Enhancements – But Is Not Completely Implemented



PECOS, the Provider Enrollment and Chain/Ownership System, implemented Release 7.37 on June 30, 2019. The scheduled release will help bring efficiencies to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) and those providers who use PECOS.

PECOS is an electronic portal for physician Medicare enrollment. Through this system, providers can:

- Submit and track Medicare enrollment applications
- Update enrollment
- View and print enrollment information
- Complete revalidation
- Voluntarily withdraw from Medicare

[More information on Enhancements and changes in PECOS Release 7.37](#)

Knowledge Center, Medicare and Medicaid

Save Time, Money and Worries by Outsourcing Payer Enrollment



Do you have idle staff members looking for more work to do? Do you and your team have so much extra time that you are constantly creating busywork for them? In short, are you fulfilling all your payer enrollments, reenrollments and medical credentialing tasks perfectly, accurately and with plenty of time to spare?

We hope this is the case with your business; *however, we doubt it* if you are handling your own enrollments with Medicare, Medicaid, Tricare and insurance carriers. These necessary responsibilities are complex and time-consuming, and it is virtually impossible to keep a healthcare staff member trained and up-to-date on all the duties involved in these critical functions.

5 Reasons To Outsource Credentialing and Provider Enrollment

At 1st Assistant, we have a great alternative for you – outsource your provider enrollment needs!

Having experts like 1st Assistant's dedicated and seasoned credentialing support specialists assist you through the process can really make a difference.

[Read ahead for our top 5 reasons why outsourcing these functions can substantially benefit your business.](#)

Thrilling Thanksgiving Trivia



Although the first American Thanksgiving was in 1621, the earliest record for the word "thanksgiving" goes back to the 1530s. English speakers used it at that time to express gratitude for good fortune, for example for a safe journey.

There are many myths and fantasies about our first Thanksgiving celebration. When you gather around your table for this year's holiday, wow your family and friends with these amazing Thanksgiving trivia facts:

- The first Thanksgiving celebration lasted for 3 days! Far longer than today's holiday which is about as long as 2 football games.
- There were about 50 European settlers and 90 Native Americans in attendance.
- The first Thanksgiving feast was "potluck" with the Wampanoag bringing food to share with the colonists. At the meal venison, ham, waterfowl, lobster, clams, berries, pumpkin, fruit and squash were enjoyed.
- Although many Americans celebrated Thanksgiving sporadically beginning in 1774, in 1863 President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a day of Thanksgiving to be the last Thursday of November.
- In 1939 President Franklin Roosevelt changed the holiday to the fourth Thursday in November. That year, there were 5 Thursdays in November and retailers begged him to move the holiday up to give more time for holiday shopping.
- Pumpkin pies as we know them today began appearing in American cookbooks in the eighteenth century but had been enjoyed in England a hundred years earlier.
- Canada celebrates its own Thanksgiving a month earlier than the U.S., but only one spot in Australia has this holiday. The custom was brought to Norfolk Island, east of Australia, by American whaling ships.
- 46 million turkeys are eaten on Thanksgiving Day in the U.S.!

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