



# News

**OUTSOURCE YOUR BILLING AND ACCOUNTING  
TO THE HOME HEALTH CONSULTANTS AT TAD!**

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## COST REPORTS: DON'T GET REJECTED - BE ACCEPTED!!

The peak of the provider home health and hospice cost report filing season is approaching fast! Approximately 10% of all Home Health Agency (HHA) and Hospice cost report filings are rejected and returned to providers for failing to meet one (or more) of the seven acceptability criteria mandated by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). If a cost report requires rejection, the entire cost report package is returned to the provider by their MAC as though a cost report has never been filed. The following tips are presented to help you ensure your cost report is properly filed and accepted without issue or to minimize impacts resulting from a cost report rejection.

- File the cost report **early**. A grace period is granted by CMS for cost reports filed early that must be rejected. The grace period is established by CMS and is equal to the number of days the cost report was received before the due date. Please note that the grace period does not include an allocation of days for mailing to and from the provider.
- Determine how you will submit the electronic cost report files:
  - A) Mail diskette/CD with signature page.
  - B) Upload files through MAC E-service option. Must still mail signature page.
  - C) After May 1<sup>st</sup> EDIM should have the ability to receive the cost report files. Providers must be registered in EDIM for the Provider Statistical and Reimbursement (PS&R) system to access the Medicare Cost Report e-Filing (MCR eF) system.
- Originals signatures are required; electronic signatures or photocopies (or facsimiles) are not permitted. MACs recommend the officer or administrator of the provider sign the certification page of the cost report (Worksheet S) that contains the ECR and PI encryption codes using **blue ink**.

Your MAC would rather accept a cost report than reject the cost report as extensive resources are required by both the provider and MAC to reprocess cost reports. Unfortunately, due to the volume of cost reports filed during peak filing periods and the short CMS time frames permitted to accept cost reports, MACs are unable to contact individual providers and attempt to obtain an acceptable filing prior to rejection. Thus, we encourage providers to closely review their cost report and electronic files prior to submission.

**If you're not currently a TAD accounting client and you want your cost report done correctly, please call Mary at 248-624-0123, ext. 2238 for a price quote!!**

## Bipartisan Budget Act: CMS Reprocessing Impacted Claims

On February 9, Congress passed the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, which contains provisions that extend certain Medicare Fee-For-Service (FFS) policies. Provisions include:

- Ambulance add-on payment
- Work Geographic Practice Cost Index Floor
- Three percent Home Health Rural Add-on Payment**

**Due to the retroactive effective dates of these provisions, your Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) will reprocess Medicare FFS claims impacted by this legislation. You do not need to take any action.**

MACs are reprocessing CY 2018 outpatient therapy cap claims, which contain the KX modifier for services in excess of the prior cap amounts.

Source: MLN Connects



Visit us at [www.tad-usa.com](http://www.tad-usa.com) for helpful links to information you need to know for your agency!!!

### TAD FREE WEBINARS

TAD Webinars include a variety of topics that will help agency owners and administrators keep current on the latest topics that impact Home Health Agencies. The following Webinars held from 2-3pm EST are open for registration:

**Billing at a Glance:** Wednesday, April 18th

**Insurance Verification and Eligibility:** Wednesday, May 16th

For more information about these webinars, or to register, visit us at [www.tad-usa.com](http://www.tad-usa.com) and select "Free Webinars." Space will be limited, so please be sure to register early. Registration for webinars is only available on line. Please note that Webinars are scheduled based on the **Eastern** time zone. New webinars and dates will be posted regularly, so visit us often at [www.tad-usa.com](http://www.tad-usa.com). We hope you will join us!!!!

### **INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT:**

**"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit."**

**- Aristotle**

