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January 19, 2009

# Home Care Association of Colorado Management Report

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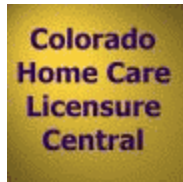
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**New updates added weekly to [www.hcaonline.org](http://www.hcaonline.org)! Check it out!**

## Your Dues Working For You: Colorado's Medicare Intermediary Changes; Medicaid Telehealth Stalled

This edition of the *HCAC Management Report* features information on Medicare's change in home health intermediary and Medicaid's delay of telehealth program.

### HCAC "Home Care Licensure Central" Website



**Read the latest news on home care licensure rule making including the latest draft (#8) PLUS the Department of Health's proposed licensure fee structure and HCAC's position on the fees. Get instructions on how to submit your important comments at HCAC's "Home Care Licensure Central." This new web page is designed to allow member access to as much information and activity as possible related to the developing home care agency licensing program. Save in your favorites!**

[Click here](#) for the Member Only

### CMS Announces New Medicare Claims Processor

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced that it has selected Highmark Medicare Services (HMS) with offices in Pennsylvania and Maryland to process home health and hospice claims from Colorado providers. HMS will also process claims from Delaware, District of Columbia, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia and Wyoming.

The announcement came as part of CMS' designation of five Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for the combined administration of Part A and Part B Medicare fee-for-service claims as required by the Medicare Modernization Act's (MMA) contracting reform provisions. [Click here](#) for the HMS website.

According to CMS, the MACs will serve as the first point of contact for the processing and payment of Medicare fee-for-service claims from home health agencies as well as hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, physicians and other health care practitioners. The new contractors will administer and pay claims, tasks currently performed by fiscal intermediaries and carriers. The contracts have an approximate value of \$1.4 billion over five years and when fully implemented will review and process

"Home Care Licensure Central" all fee-for-service claims submitted to Medicare for payment.

**Quick Links...**

- [Audio Conferences: Elizabeth Hogue 2009 Legal Series](#)
- [Register Today: HCAC Annual Convention & Home Care Exhibition, May 7-8, 2009](#)
- [Mark Your Calendar: OASIS Coding Workshop, April 15 - 17, 2009 \(details to come\)](#)
- [Cahaba Resources](#)
- [Read all about HCAC's 2008 Annual Convention](#)
- [Visit Our 24/7 Virtual Trade Show](#)
- [Check Out HCAC's Jobs and Services Store](#)
- [Click here for Members Only State Legislative Bulletin Board](#)
- [HCAR Article on Colorado Healthcare Summit](#)

In 2008, Medicare processed more than 1.1 billion fee-for-service claims and paid more than \$400 billion in fee-for-service benefits under the original Medicare benefit. The contracts include a base period and four one-year options and will provide the contractors with an opportunity to earn award fees based on their ability to meet or exceed the performance requirements set by CMS.

Cahaba GBA, Colorado's current home health fiscal intermediary, has been awarded a contract for the combined administration of Part A/Part B Medicare claims payment in Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee.

[Click here](#) for the list of all contractors and the states they cover, along with other information.

**HCPF Delays Implementation of Medicaid Telehealth Program**

**The Dept. of Health Care Policy & Financing has announced that due to the economic downslide and the state's hiring freeze, the home care telehealth project will be put on hold until a cost savings analysis can be completed.**

HCAC continues to lobby the governor's office and HCPF officials to convince them that telehealth services are cost effective and that savings have been proven time and time again due to reduced hospitalizations and elimination of emergency room admits

[HCAC members click here](#) for HCAC's "Telehealth Central" and to read details.

HCAC members with testimonials or case histories on telehealth successes are asked to submit them to [ecaruso@assnoffice.com](mailto:ecaruso@assnoffice.com).

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