



Comprehensive Error Rate Testing (CERT)

The primary objective at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is to ensure that the Medicare Fee-for Service program pays claims correctly.

In order to meet this goal, Medicare contactors, including WPS Medicare, must ensure that they pay the right amount for covered and correctly coded services rendered to eligible beneficiaries by legitimate providers.

The Comprehensive Error Rate Testing, or CERT, program is a measure of how effectively providers prepare and submit Medicare claims and how effective Affiliated Contractors, like WPS Medicare, are at reviewing and paying claims correctly.

WPS Medicare uses CERT findings in a variety of ways – to determine the underlying reasons for errors associated with claim payments and denials, and to implement education and corrective actions aimed toward improvements in the accuracy of claims processing.

The CERT page on the WPS Medicare Website offers a variety of CERT related educational resources, Frequently Asked Questions, and helpful CERT Links, including links to the CMS Evaluation and Management Services guide and lists of Over-Utilized Codes. You can also view lists of Common CERT Errors, including those that are specific to various specialties. Last, but not least, you can even submit a CERT question to WPS Medicare.

To view the CERT page on the WPS Medicare Website, simply go to the Provider Homepage, select "MR/CERT" from the drop-down box under Medicare Areas (located in the top navigation bar), and finally click on the Comprehensive Error Rate Testing link that appears in the left-hand navigation box.

Working together to lower CERT error rates, WPS Medicare and our provider community will assure that correctly submitted and paid claims will sustain the viability of the Medicare program.

WPS Medicare Website CERT Homepage address:

http://www.wpsmedicare.com/part_b/business/cert_legacy.shtml