

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

Physician Notes: Medicare Opt-Outs Now Auto-Renew Every 2 Years

If you've been opting out of Medicare every two years, CMS has either great news or terrible news for you, depending on how long you plan to stay out of the Medicare program.

Thanks to the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA), any opt-out affidavit that you sign on or after June 16, 2015 will auto-renew every two years. In the past, you had to manually refile your opt-out authorization every two years—so if you plan to stay out of Medicare indefinitely, the new change will be quite welcome and will save you both time and paperwork.

If, however, you do not want to opt out of Medicare anymore after your current authorization expires, you'll have to cancel the renewal "by notifying all Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) with which you filed an affidavit in writing at least 30 days prior to the start of the next opt-out period," CMS says in its June 25 MLN Connects Provider eNews document.

Any opt-out affidavits that you filed after June 16, 2015 won't auto-renew. Instead, you'll file a renewal affidavit within 30 days of the current opt-out period expiration.