

Explanation of Social Security Number Usage (Box 25)

In December 2006, CMS received a letter from the AMA expressing their concern regarding the requirement for submission of the SSN in box 25 of the Form CMS-1500. Box 25 is used to capture the Federal Tax ID Number of the billing provider which could be either the SSN or EIN. After reviewing our 1500 form instructions, internally discussing the situation with our CMS policy staff, and polling our contractors, the decision was made to revise the internet only manual requirement for filling out box 25. In April 2007, Change Request 5489 was released which removed the requirement for the submission of the SSN in Box 25.