

## **Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) Protest**

On July 10, 2009, TrailBlazer was awarded the contract to serve as the Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) for Jurisdiction 7 (J7), which includes the states of Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

On July 21, 2009, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) notified TrailBlazer that the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) received a protest of CMS' J7 award. This has resulted in a stop-work order in accordance with federal acquisition regulations. TrailBlazer has been directed to immediately stop all work in support of the J7 contract. This stop-work order is in effect until the final resolution of the protest. CMS periodically updates the status of the MAC procurements on its Contracting Reform Web page.

TrailBlazer will share more information through this its J7 implementation web site <http://www.trailblazerhealth.com/J7/Default.aspx> as details become available on how this decision will affect providers. Please check this site regularly for important updates regarding the J7 MAC implementation

July 27, 2009