

Qualified Independent Contractors (QIC) Fact Sheet

What are Qualified Independent Contractors (QICs)?

The Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2000 (BIPA) included provisions aimed at improving the Medicare appeals process. Part of these provisions mandate that all second-level appeals, also known as reconsiderations, be conducted by Qualified Independent Contractors (QICs). These provisions require that QICs utilize a comprehensive data system to collect and share information about appeals decisions, give weight to carrier and fiscal intermediary local coverage determinations, and conduct a panel review of all medical necessity denials.

In 2003, the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act (MMA) made certain revisions to the BIPA requirements, including reducing the number of QICs from 12 to 4.

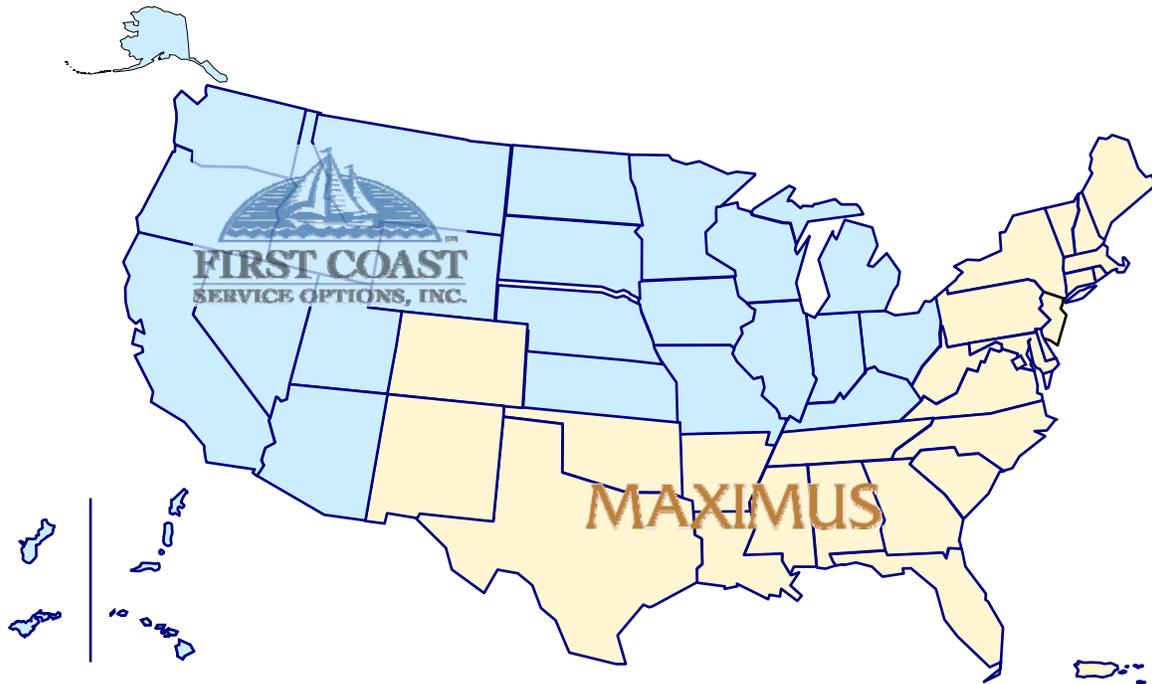
Who are the QICs?

In the fall of 2004 the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) awarded Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contracts to 8 entities to perform QIC functions. To date, CMS has competitively awarded 8 task orders under the IDIQ contract: 1 for the Administrative QIC (“AdQIC”), 2 for Part A QICs, 2 for Part B QICs, 1 for the Part C QIC, and 2 for Part D QICs.

The AdQIC task order was awarded to Q2Administrators (Q2A) in South Carolina. The AdQIC is responsible for developing operational procedures/protocols for the Part A & B QICs, data analysis for CMS and the QICs, training of QIC personnel, and serving as a liaison in case file distribution between the Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals, the Part A & B QICs, and the Medicare Fiscal Intermediaries, Carriers, and Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs).

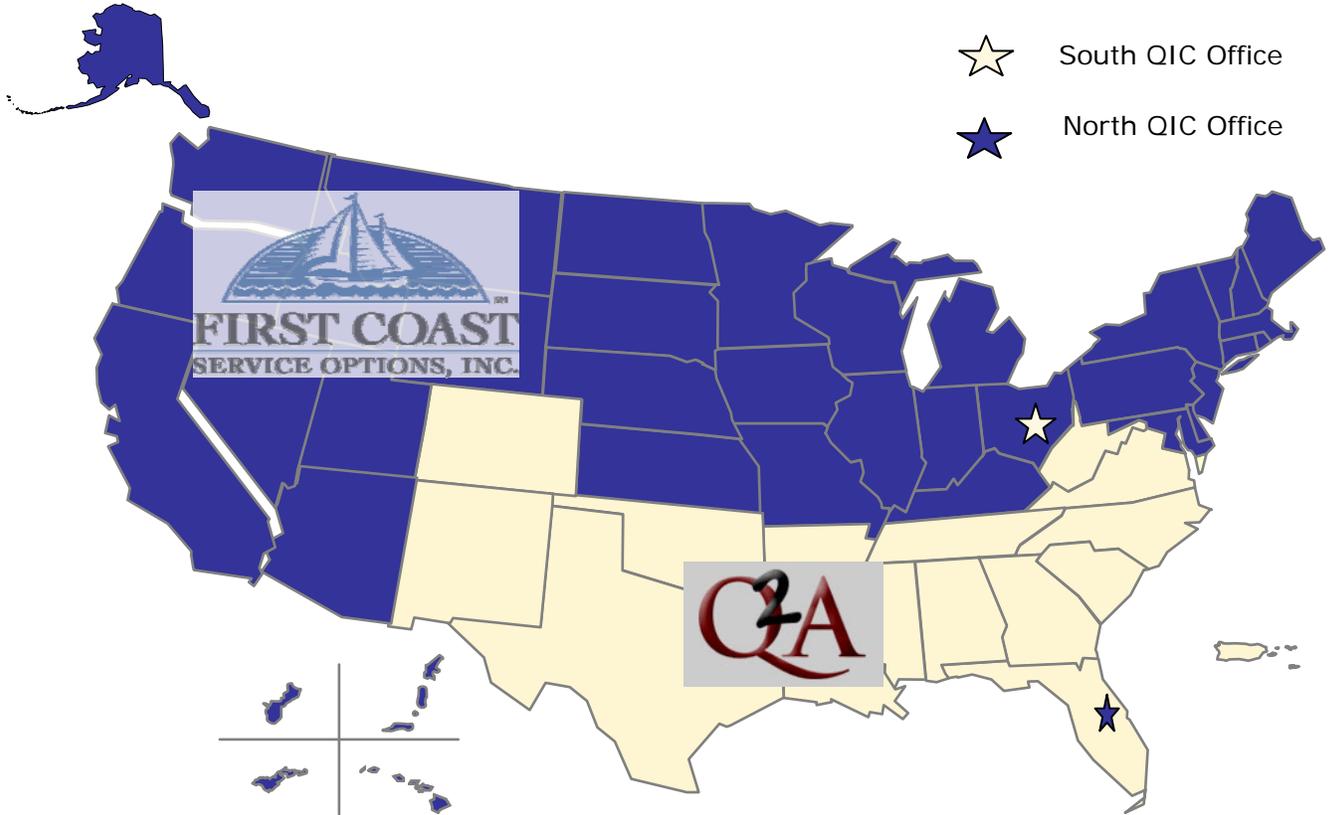
The Part A QIC task orders were awarded to First Coast Service Options (FCSO), in Florida, and Maximus, located in Pennsylvania. FCSO was awarded the west jurisdiction while Maximus was awarded the east jurisdiction. Please see the map below.

QIC Jurisdictions FIs



There are also two task orders to process reconsiderations of carrier redeterminations and one task order to process reconsiderations of DME MAC redeterminations. The Part B/carrier North jurisdiction task order was awarded to FCSO, and the South jurisdiction to Q2Administrators. Please see the map below.

Part B QICs Jurisdictions



Note: The CT reconsideration workload will be processed as part of the South jurisdiction.

River Trust Solutions was awarded the DME QIC task order award. Please see the map below.

DME QIC Jurisdiction



Similarly, the task order for the Part C reconsideration workload and both the east and west task orders for the Part D reconsideration workload were awarded to Maximus Federal Services (Maximus). As the Part C QIC, Maximus is responsible for processing Part C reconsiderations. As the Part D QIC, Maximus is responsible for processing all Part D reconsiderations.

For more information regarding Part C and Part D appeals, please check the following websites:

www.medicareappeals.com

www.MedicarePartDAppeals.com

How do I request a reconsideration?

To request a reconsideration with a QIC, follow the instructions on your Medicare Redetermination Notice.

A request for reconsideration may be made on a standard CMS form. This form will be mailed with the Medicare Redetermination Notice. If the form is not used, the request must contain at least all of the following information:

- The beneficiary's name
- The beneficiary's Medicare health insurance claim number
- The specific service(s) and item(s) for which the reconsideration is requested, and the specific date(s) of service
- The name and signature of the party or representative of the party
- The name of the contractor that made the redetermination

The Medicare Reconsideration Request form is located at:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/cmsforms/downloads/CMS20033.pdf>

What are the QIC's jurisdictions by state?

Part A Jurisdictions

Jurisdiction	States
<i>East Jurisdiction</i>	Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Washington DC
<i>West Jurisdiction</i>	Washington, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Utah, Arizona, Nevada, California, Alaska, Hawaii, Oregon, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa

Part B Jurisdictions

Jurisdiction	States
<i>North Jurisdiction</i>	Alaska, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, District of Columbia, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Hawaii, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa
<i>South Jurisdiction</i>	Colorado, Connecticut, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands
<i>DME Jurisdiction</i>	ALL USA

What is the QIC's mailing address for my jurisdiction?

Answer:

Part A East Mailing Address:

Maximus Federal Services, Inc.
1040 First Avenue, Suite 400
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Part A West Mailing Address:

First Coast Service Options
QIC Part A West Reconsiderations
P.O. Box 45029
Jacksonville, FL 32232

Part B North Mailing Address:

First Coast Service Options
QIC Part B North Reconsiderations
P.O. Box 45208
Jacksonville, FL 32232-5208

Part B South Mailing Address:

Q2A Administrators, LLC
Part B South Operations
PO Box 183092
Columbus, Ohio 43218-3092

DME OIC Mailing Address:

RiverTrust Solutions, Inc.
P.O. Box 180208
Chattanooga, TN 37401-7208

Where can I find more information?

Please check the following sites for additional information:

www.q2a.com

www.FCSO.com

www.Maximus.com

www.rivertrustsolutions.com