

Cleveland chosen as new site for Medicare appeals

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The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has selected Cleveland as one of three sites to run its new appeals court system for Medicare claim denials.

HHS has signed a 10-year lease, starting Friday, for space on the 12th and 13th floors of the BP Building, where it will establish a new Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals. Two other field offices will be in Irvine, Calif., and Miami, with headquarters in Arlington, Va. The new system, designed to speed the appeals process, was ordered by Congress in 2003.

Each field office will have 15 judges deciding appeals. In Cleveland, HHS will hire about 70 judges, lawyers, paralegals and support staff to handle the cases, which arise from the government's health insurance program for seniors.