



Update to Rural Health Clinic (RHC) All-Inclusive Rate (AIR) Payment Limit for Calendar Year (CY) 2019

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Related Change Request (CR) Number: 10989

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Related CR Transmittal Number: R4145CP

Implementation Date: January 7, 2019

PROVIDER TYPE AFFECTED

This MLN Matters Article is intended for Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) billing Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

CR 10989 updates the RHC payment limit per visit for Calendar Year (CY) 2019. Please make sure your billing staffs are aware of this update.

BACKGROUND

Medicare Part B payment to RHCs is 80 percent of the All-Inclusive Rate (AIR), subject to a payment limit for medically necessary medical, and qualified preventive face-to-face visits with a practitioner and a Medicare beneficiary for RHC services. As authorized by §1833(f) of the Social Security Act, the payment limits for a subsequent year shall be increased in accordance with the rate of increase in the Medicare Economic Index (MEI). Based on historical data through second quarter 2018, the CY 2019 MEI is 1.5 percent. The RHC payment limit per visit for CY 2019 is \$84.70 effective January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2019. The CY 2019 RHC payment limit reflects a 1.5 percent increase above the CY 2018 payment limit of \$83.45.

To avoid unnecessary administrative burden, MACs shall not retroactively adjust individual RHC bills paid at a previous payment limit. However, MACs retain the discretion to make adjustments to the interim payment rate or a lump sum adjustment to total payments already made to take into account any excess or deficiency in payments to date.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The official instruction, CR 10989, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2018Downloads/R4145CP.pdf>.

If you have questions, your MACs may have more information. Find their website at <http://go.cms.gov/MAC-website-list>.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date of Change	Description
November 16, 2018	Initial article released.

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