



Related MLN Matters Article #: SE0535

Date Posted: May 26, 2005

Related Change Request #: N/A

MMA – CMS' Implementation of Section 1011 of the Medicare Modernization Act - Federal Funding of Emergency Health Services Furnished to Undocumented Aliens

Key Words

SE0535, Section, 1011, Policy, Emergency, Health, Service, Payments, Eligible, 1867, Aliens, Funding, MMA, Physicians, Hospitals, Providers, Contractor, Indian, CAH, Facility

Provider Types Affected

Hospitals, physicians, and ambulance providers

Key Points

- SE0535 summarizes the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) policy in section 1011 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act (MMA) regarding the Federal Funding of Emergency Health Services furnished to undocumented aliens.
- Section 1011 provides \$250 million per year for the fiscal years (FY 2005-2008) to help hospitals, certain physicians, and ambulance providers recoup the costs of providing needed emergency medical care to undocumented aliens and certain other aliens.
- Two-thirds of the funds will be divided among all 50 states and the District of Columbia based on their relative percentages of undocumented aliens.
- One-third will be divided among the six states with the largest number of undocumented alien apprehensions.
- Payments will be made directly to hospitals, certain physicians, and ambulance providers for some or all of the costs of providing emergency health care required under section 1867 and related hospital inpatient, outpatient, and ambulance services to eligible individuals.
- Eligible providers may include an Indian Health Service (IHS) facility, whether operated by the IHS or by an Indian tribe or tribal organization and Medicare critical access hospitals.
- Payments may only be made to the extent that care was not otherwise reimbursed (through insurance or otherwise) for services during that fiscal year.
- Payments may be made only for services furnished to certain individuals described in the statute as:
 - Undocumented aliens;

- Aliens who have been paroled into the United States at a United States port of entry for the purpose of receiving eligible services; and
- Mexican citizens permitted to enter the United States for not more than 72 hours under the authority of a biometric machine-readable border crossing identification card issued in accordance with the requirements of regulations prescribed under a specific section of the Immigration and Nationality Act.
- CMS has designated TrailBlazer Health Enterprises as the national contractor for Section 1011.
- TrailBlazer will enroll eligible providers, assist providers with enrollment and billing questions, calculate provider payment amounts, and serve as the compliance contractor.

Important Links

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0535.pdf>

Additional information can be found be viewed at

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/undocaliens/01_overview.asp? on the CMS website.