



Related MLN Matters Article #: MM3228

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MMA – Addition to Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, and Clinical Nurse Specialists as Emergency On-Call Providers for Critical Access Hospitals

Keywords

MM3228, CR3228, R285CP, Critical Access, Hospital, Emergency Room, On-Call Providers, CAH, Section 405, Changes for CAHs

Provider Types Affected

Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs)

Key Points

- The effective date of instruction is January 1, 2005.
- The implementation date is January 3, 2005.
- Changes introduced by Section 405 of the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA) allow CAHs to include physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists as CAH emergency room on-call providers, effective with dates of service on or after January 1, 2005.
- Section 405 of the MMA introduces the following changes for CAHs beginning with cost reporting periods that start on or after January 1, 2005:
 - CAHs may include physician assistants, nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists as CAH emergency room on-call providers.
 - CAHs may include amounts for reasonable compensation and related costs of these non-physician practitioners who are on call, and payment will be made via the cost report settlement process.
 - Non-physician practitioners who are on call do not have to be present on the premises of the CAH involved.
 - Non-physicians practitioners who are on call cannot be furnishing physician services at another site while on call.
 - Non-physician practitioners who are on call cannot be on call at any other provider or facility while on call.

- The *Medicare Claims Processing Manual*, Section 30.1.3 of Chapter 3, is being revised and CAHs should note the revision requires that, for the costs associated with these non-physician practitioners to be allowable, the costs must be incurred under a written contract that requires the on-call provider to come to the CAH when the provider's presence is medically required.

Important Links

The related MLN Matters article can be found at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM3228.pdf> on the CMS website.

The official instructions (CR3228) issued can be found at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R285CP.pdf> on the CMS website.