



Related Medlearn Matters Article #: MM3599

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Related CR #: 3599

### *Ambulance Inflation Factor*

#### Key Words

Ambulance, MM3599, CR3599, AIF, CPI-U, Part B, Blended

#### Provider Types Affected

Providers and suppliers of ambulance services billing Medicare carriers and Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs) for those services

#### Key Points

- The effective date of instruction is January 1, 2005.
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is required to issue the ambulance inflation factor (AIF) so that contractors can pay Medicare ambulance claims accurately and in accordance with statutory requirements.
- The AIF for calendar year 2005 is 3.3 percent.
- This update is equal to the percentage increase in the consumer price index for all urban consumers (CPI-U) for the 12-month period ending with June of the previous year.
- The AIF is applied separately, to both the fee schedule portion and the reasonable charge/cost portions of the blended payment amount.
- The two amounts are added together to determine total payment.
- Part B coinsurance and deductible requirements apply to these claims.

#### Important Links

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2005/MM3599.pdf>

[http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/pm\\_trans/R411CP.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/pm_trans/R411CP.pdf)