



Related MLN Matters Article #: MM3833

Date Posted: August 3, 2005

Related CR #: 3833

### *Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) Pass-Through Payments for Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs)*

#### Key Words

Certified, Registered, Nurse, Anesthetists, CAH, MM3833, CR3833, Exemption, Pass-Through, CRNA

#### Provider Types Affected

CAHs billing Medicare Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs)

#### Key Points

- The effective date of the instruction is October 1, 2002.
- The implementation date is January 3, 2006.
- MM3833 clarifies payment for Method I and Method II CAHs that keep their pass-through exemptions and also provides billing instructions for Method II CAHs that gave up their pass-through exemption.
- CRNA pass-throughs will be paid whenever the CRNA indicator is present on the provider files.

#### Billing Instructions for Fiscal Intermediaries

The FIs will do the following:

- Annotate the provider file to allow the CRNA indicator for Method I and Method II CAHs that are qualified with a CRNA pass-through exemption;
- Accept revenue code 037X on Type of Bills (TOBs) 11X and 85X for CRNA technical services for all CAHs;
- Make payment as follows for TOBs 11X and 85X CAHs paid under Methods I and Method II that have a CRNA pass-through exemption:
  - Revenue Code - 037X = Technical Service - Cost Reimbursement;
  - Revenue Code - 0964 = Professional Services - cost reimbursement for both inpatient and outpatient;
  - The Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code reflects anesthesia (00100 through 01999 HCPCS range); and

- Deductible and coinsurance apply.
- Make payment as follows for the TOBs 85X CAHs paid under Method II that gave up their CRNA pass-through exemption:
  - Revenue Code - 037X = Technical Service - Cost Reimbursement; and
  - Revenue Code - 0964 = Professional Service - 115% times 80% (not medically directed) or 115% times 50% (medically directed) of allowed amount for outpatient CRNA professional services.
- Look for the "QZ" modifier to identify the non-medically directed CRNA service; and
- Pay CRNA pass-throughs back to October 1, 2002, if the CAH attests in writing that they did not receive payment for CRNA pass-through exemption (professional) services and they are eligible for the CRNA pass-through exemption.

### Important Links

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM3833.pdf>

For complete details, affected providers should see the official instruction issued to their FI regarding this change. That instruction may be viewed by going to

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R616CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If affected providers have any questions, they should contact their FI at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.