



Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) Bonus Payment Policy Changes – JA6106

Related CR Release Date : November 21, 2008

Date Job Aid Revised: December 5, 2008

Effective Date: January 1, 2009

Implementation Date: January 5, 2009

Key Words MM6106, CR6106, R1639CP, HPSA, Bonus, Payment, AQ

Contractors Affected

- Carriers
- Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)
- Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs)

Provider Types Affected Physicians and providers submitting claims to Medicare Carriers, A/B MACs, and/or FIs for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries in areas designated as geographic HPSAs



Change Request (CR) 6106 informs providers who are serving Medicare beneficiaries in areas that were eligible on December 31 of the prior year for the HPSA bonus, but not on the automated ZIP code list, to use the AQ modifier to receive the HPSA bonus payment.

Provider Needs to Know...

- Effective for claims with dates of service on or after January 1, 2009, only services furnished in areas that are designated as geographic HPSAs as of December 31 of the prior year are eligible for the HPSA bonus payment.
- Services furnished in areas that are designated at any time during the current year will not be eligible for the HPSA bonus payment until the following year, provided they are still designated on December 31.

- Providers who are providing services to Medicare beneficiaries in areas that are designated on December 31 of the prior year, but not included on the list of ZIP codes eligible for automated HPSA bonus payments, should make certain they use the AQ modifier to receive the HPSA bonus payment.
- The Medicare contractor will automatically make a HPSA bonus payment to physicians providing eligible services in a ZIP code included in the annual file.

Background

- The Section 1833(m) of the Social Security Act provides for an additional 10 percent bonus payment for physicians' services furnished to a covered individual in an area that is designated as a geographic HPSA prior to the beginning of the year in which the services were provided.
- Such HPSA areas are identified by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services prior to the beginning of such year. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) posts a file annually of ZIP codes within which the HPSA bonus payment should be made automatically.

**Operational
Impact**

N/A

**Reference
Materials**

The related MLN Matters article can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6106.pdf> on the CMS website.

The official instruction (CR6106) issued regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1639CP.pdf> on the CMS website.