



## Provider Inquiry Assistance

### Announcement of Medicare Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) Payment Rate Increases – JA6218

**Note:** JA6218 was revised to add a reference to MM7038, which is available at <http://www.cms.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/MM7038.pdf>, to alert FQHCs to the information that they are required to submit, beginning January 1, 2011, in order for CMS to develop and implement a Prospective Payment System for Medicare FQHCs.

Related CR Release Date: October 31, 2008 **Revised**

Date Job Aid Revised: December 14, 2010

Effective Date: January 1, 2009

Implementation Date: January 5, 2009

<b>Key Words</b>	MM6218, CR6218, R1626CP, RHC, FQHC, Payment
<b>Contractors Affected</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)</li> <li>• Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs)</li> </ul>
<b>Provider Types Affected</b>	RHCs and FQHCs submitting claims to Medicare FIs and/or A/B MACs for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries



Change Request (CR) 6218 provides instructions for the calendar year (CY) 2009 payment rate increases for RHCs and FQHCs services.

Effective for services on or after January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2009, the CY 2009 payment rates for RHCs and FQHCs are as follows:

**Provider Needs to Know...**

- The **RHC upper payment limit per visit** is increased from \$75.63 to \$76.84. The 2009 rate reflects a 1.6 percent increase over the 2008 payment limit in accordance with the rate of increase in the Medicare Economic Index (MEI) as authorized by the Social Security Act (Section 1833(f)).
- The **FQHC upper payment limit per visit for urban FQHCs** is increased from \$117.41 to \$119.29.

- 
- 
- The maximum Medicare payment limit per visit for rural FQHCs is increased from \$100.96 to \$102.58. The 2009 FQHC rates reflect a 1.6 percent increase over the 2008 rates, in accordance with the rate of increase in the MEI.
- 
- 

Background

In accordance with the Social Security Act (Section 1833(f)); (see [http://www.ssa.gov/OP\\_Home/ssact/title18/1833.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title18/1833.htm) on the Internet), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is increasing the CY 2009 payment rates for RHCs and FQHCs effective for services on or after January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2009 (i.e., CY 2009).

---

---

Operational  
Impact

- To avoid any unnecessary administrative burden, Medicare contractors will **not** retroactively adjust individual RHC/FQHC bills paid at previous upper payment limits.
  - They retain the discretion to make adjustments to the interim payment rate or a lump sum adjustment to total payments already made to take into account any excess or deficiency in payments to date.
- 
- 

Reference  
Materials

The related MLN Matters® article can be found at <http://www.cms.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/MM6218.pdf> on the CMS website.

The official instruction (CR6218) issued regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1626CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

---

---