

Medicare Home Health Rural Add-on

On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed into law the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA)*, which creates a 3% add-on to payments made for home health services to patients in rural areas. The add-on applies to episodes ending on or after April 1, 2010, through December 31, 2016. Similar to temporary rural add-on provisions in the past, claims that report a rural state code (code beginning with 999) as the Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA) code for the beneficiary's residence will receive the additional 3% payment. The CBSA code is reported associated with value code 61 on home health claims.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is working to expeditiously implement the home health rural add-on provision, Section 3131(c), of the PPACA. Be on the alert for more information about this provision and its impact on past and future claims. Further, be on the alert for more information pertaining to the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*.