



MLN Matters®

Information for Medicare Fee-For-Service Health Care Professionals

Related Change Request (CR) #: 3228

MLN Matters Number: MM3228

Related CR Release Date: August 27, 2004

Related CR Transmittal #: 285

Effective Date: January 1, 2005

Implementation Date: January 3, 2005

MMA-Addition of Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, and Clinical Nurse Specialists as Emergency On-Call Providers for Critical Access Hospitals

Note: This article was updated on May 7, 2013, to reflect current Web addresses. All other information remains unchanged.

Provider Types Affected

Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs)

Provider Action Needed

Be aware of the changes, introduced by Section 405 of the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA), that allow CAHs to include physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists as CAH emergency room on-call providers, effective with cost reporting periods that begin on or after January 1, 2005.

Background

Section 405 of the MMA introduces the following changes for CAHs beginning with cost reporting periods that start on or after January 1, 2005:

- CAH's may include physician assistants, nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists as CAH emergency room on-call providers.
- CAH's may include amounts for reasonable compensation and related costs of these non-physician practitioners who are on call.
- Non-physician practitioners who are on call do not have to be present on the premises of the CAH involved.
- Non-physicians practitioners who are on call can not be furnishing physician services at another site while on call.
- Non-physician practitioners who are on call not be on call at any other provider or facility while on call.

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The Medicare Claims Processing Manual is being revised as a result of the change request (CR3228), on which this article is based. Section 30.1.3 of Chapter 3 of that manual is revised and CAHs should note that the revision requires, in order for the costs associated with these non-physician practitioners to be allowable, the costs must be incurred under a written contract that requires the on-call provider to come to the CAH when the provider's presence is medically required.

Additional Information

To view the entire instruction issued to your intermediary, go to <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R285CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

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