

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



NEW product from the Medicare Learning Network® (MLN)

- **“The CMS Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) Program: What Medicare Eligible Professionals Need to Know in 2014”** Web-Based Training (WBT)

MLN Matters® Number: MM8942

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 8942

Related CR Release Date: October 3, 2014

Effective Date: January 1, 2015

Related CR Transmittal #: R3087CP

Implementation Date: January 5, 2015

2015 Annual Update for the Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) Bonus Payments

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for physicians, providers, and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

Provider Action Needed

Change Request (CR) 8942 alerts you that the annual HPSA bonus payment file for 2015 will be made available by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to your MAC and will be used for HPSA bonus payments on applicable claims with dates of service on or after January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2015. You should review Physician Bonuses webpage at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/HPSAPSAPhysicianBonuses> on the CMS website each year to determine whether you need to add modifier AQ to your claim in order to receive the bonus payment, or to see if the ZIP code in which you rendered services will automatically receive the HPSA bonus payment. Make sure that your billing staffs are aware of these changes.

Disclaimer

This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents. CPT only copyright 2013 American Medical Association.

Background

Section 413(b) of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 mandated an annual update to the automated HPSA bonus payment file. CMS automated HPSA ZIP code file shall be populated using the latest designations as close as possible to November 1 of each year. The HPSA ZIP code file shall be made available to MACs in early December of each year. MACs shall implement the HPSA ZIP code file and, for claims with dates of service January 1 to December 31 of the following year, shall make automatic HPSA bonus payments to physicians providing eligible services in a ZIP code contained on the file. Only areas designated as HPSAs prior to the end of the calendar will be eligible for a bonus payment in the following year.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR 8942, issued to your MAC regarding this change, is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R3087CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your MAC at their toll-free number. That number is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Net/work-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/index.html> under - How Does It Work.

Disclaimer

This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents. CPT only copyright 2013 American Medical Association.