

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



News Flash –

NEW products from the Medicare Learning Network® (MLN).

[“Mass Immunizers and Roster Billing,”](#) Fact Sheet, ICN 907275, Downloadable

MLN Matters® Number: SE1202

Related Change Request (CR) #: N/A

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Related CR Transmittal #: N/A

Implementation Date: January 1, 2012

Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) Bonus Payment Policy Reminders

Provider Types Affected

This Medicare Learning Network (MLN) Matters® Special Edition Article is intended for physicians and providers submitting claims to Medicare Carriers, Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs), and/or Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs) for services furnished to Medicare beneficiaries in areas designated as geographic Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs).

Provider Action Needed

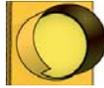


STOP – Impact to You

Physicians who furnish services to Medicare beneficiaries in areas designated as primary care geographic HPSAs by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as of December 31, 2011, are eligible for a 10 percent bonus payment for services furnished from January 1, 2012, to December 31, 2012. If an area does not have a geographic primary care HPSA designation, but does have a geographic mental health HPSA designation, then only psychiatrists furnishing services to Medicare beneficiaries in the designated area are eligible for the ten percent bonus.

Disclaimer

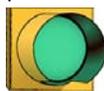
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CAUTION – What You Need to Know

The physician must determine whether a service is furnished in a geographic primary care (or mental health) HPSA. Eligibility is determined annually based on the status of the designation, as of December 31 of the prior year. That is, a physician who was eligible for the 10 percent bonus in 2011 may not be eligible for the bonus in 2012. A physician or provider that was not eligible for the 10 percent bonus in 2011 may be eligible for the bonus in 2012. Information about designated areas is available from HRSA. The following web pages may help you determine whether an area is a geographic primary care or mental health HPSA:

- The Shortage Designation Advisor page identifies areas located in an HPSA by entering a valid address. It is available at <http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/GeoAdvisor/ShortageDesignationAdvisor.aspx> on the HRSA website.
- The HPSA State & County Search page identifies HPSA designation with a state and is available at <http://hpsafind.hrsa.gov/HPSASearch.aspx> on the HRSA website.
- The Geocoding System page identifies census tracts by entering a valid address and is available at <http://www.ffiec.gov/Geocode/default.aspx> on the Internet.



GO – What You Need to Know

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) publishes an annual list of ZIP codes that automatically receive the HPSA bonus. Only areas where the entire ZIP code falls within the designated area at the time the list is developed are listed. Services provided in eligible areas that are not listed for automatic bonus payment must use the AQ modifier to receive the bonus.

Only physicians who furnish services in areas designated as a geographic primary care HPSA, as of December 31, 2011, and whose ZIP code is not on the list should use the modifier. Only psychiatrists who furnish services in areas that are not designated as primary care HPSAs, as of December 31, 2011, but are designated as a geographic mental health HPSA, should use the modifier if the ZIP code is not on the list for automatic payment.

Information about the Medicare Physician bonus program, including the list of ZIP codes eligible for automatic payment of the bonus, is available at http://www.cms.gov/hpsapsaphysicianbonuses/01_overview.asp on the CMS website. An MLN Matters® Article, MM7517, on this issue can be found at <http://www.cms.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/MM7517.pdf> on the CMS website.

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Additional Information

For more information about the Medicare Physician Bonus Program, including the list of ZIP codes eligible for automatic bonus payment, visit the HPSA/PSA Physician Bonuses web page at http://www.cms.gov/hpsapsaphysicianbonuses/01_overview.asp on the CMS website.

MLN Matters® Article MM7517, titled, "2012 Annual Update for the Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) Bonus Payments," is available at <http://www.cms.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM7517.pdf> on the CMS website.

The MLN fact sheet titled, "Health Professional Shortage Area," which is designed to provide education on the HPSA payment system, is available at <http://www.cms.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/HPSAfctsht.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have questions, please contact your Medicare Carrier, FI or A/B MAC at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.

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