



2018 Annual Update for the Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) Bonus Payments

MLN Matters Number: MM10317

Related Change Request (CR) Number: 10317

Related CR Release Date: September 29, 2017

Effective Date: January 1, 2018

Related CR Transmittal Number: R3870CP

Implementation Date: January 2, 2018

PROVIDER TYPE AFFECTED

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for physicians submitting claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services provided in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) to Medicare beneficiaries.

PROVIDER ACTION NEEDED

Change Request (CR) 10317 alerts you that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will make the annual HPSA bonus payment file for 2018 available to your MAC to use for HPSA bonus payments on applicable claims with dates of service on or after January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2018. You should review the Physician Bonuses webpage at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/HPSAPSAPhysicianBonuses/> 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.

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. The HPSA ZIP code file is 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 your MAC in early December of each year. MACs will 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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The official instruction, CR10317, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2017Downloads/R3870CP.pdf>.

If you have any questions, please contact your MAC at their toll-free number. That number is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/Medicare-FFS-Compliance-Programs/Review-Contractor-Directory-Interactive-Map/>

DOCUMENT HISTORY

| Date of Change | Description |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| September 29, 2017 | Initial article released. |

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