



2019 Annual Update for the Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) Bonus Payments

MLN Matters Number: MM10968

Related Change Request (CR) Number: 10968

Related CR Release Date: September 28, 2018

Effective Date: January 1, 2019

Related CR Transmittal Number: R4142CP

Implementation Date: January 7, 2019

PROVIDER TYPES AFFECTED

This MLN Matters Article is intended for physicians and providers billing Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

PROVIDER ACTION NEEDED

Change Request (CR) 10968 provides files for the automated payments of Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) bonuses for dates of service January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2019. Make sure 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 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) automated HPSA ZIP code file are populated using the latest designations as close as possible to November 1st of each year. The HPSA ZIP code file shall be made available to the MACs in early December of each year. MACs shall implement the HPSA ZIP code file and for claims with dates of service January 1st to December 31st of the following year and make automatic HPSA bonus payments to physicians providing eligible services in a ZIP code contained on the file.

You should review the Physician Bonuses webpage at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/HPSAPSAPhysicianBonuses/index.html> 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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The official instruction, CR10968, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2018Downloads/R4142CP.pdf>.

If you have questions, your MACs may have more information. Find their website at <http://go.cms.gov/MAC-website-list>.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date of Change	Description
September 28, 2018	Initial article released.

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 2017 American Medical Association. All rights reserved.

Copyright © 2018, the American Hospital Association, Chicago, Illinois. Reproduced with permission. No portion of the AHA copyrighted materials contained within this publication may be copied without the express written consent of the AHA. AHA copyrighted materials including the UB-04 codes and descriptions may not be removed, copied, or utilized within any software, product, service, solution or derivative work without the written consent of the AHA. If an entity wishes to utilize any AHA materials, please contact the AHA at 312-893-6816. Making copies or utilizing the content of the UB-04 Manual, including the codes and/or descriptions, for internal purposes, resale and/or to be used in any product or publication; creating any modified or derivative work of the UB-04 Manual and/or codes and descriptions; and/or making any commercial use of UB-04 Manual or any portion thereof, including the codes and/or descriptions, is only authorized with an express license from the American Hospital Association. To license the electronic data file of UB-04 Data Specifications, contact Tim Carlson at (312) 893-6816 or Laryssa Marshall at (312) 893-6814. You may also contact us at ub04@healthforum.com

The American Hospital Association (the "AHA") has not reviewed, and is not responsible for, the completeness or accuracy of any information contained in this material, nor was the AHA or any of its affiliates, involved in the preparation of this material, or the analysis of information provided in the material. The views and/or positions presented in the material do not necessarily represent the views of the AHA. CMS and its products and services are not endorsed by the AHA or any of its affiliates.