



News Flash - The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has placed important information about accessing 2009 Electronic Prescribing (eRx) Incentive Program feedback reports at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/ERxIncentive/index.html> on the CMS website. The 2009 eRx Incentive Program feedback reports will be available in November 2010 after the 2009 eRx incentive payments are distributed. Several new and updated educational resource documents about accessing 2009 Electronic Prescribing (eRx) Incentive Program feedback reports are now available on the "Spotlight, 2009 PQRI Program and eRx Overview" links of the eRx website.

MLN Matters Number: MM7035

Related Change Request (CR) #: 7035

Related CR Release Date: July 2, 2010

Effective Date: January 1, 2011

Related CR Transmittal #: R7240TN

Implementation Date: January 3, 2011

Note: This article was updated on December 7, 2012, to reflect current Web addresses. All other information remains unchanged.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program: Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Modifier for the EHR Incentive Program

Provider Types Affected

Physicians, dentists, and other providers who participate in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) EHR Incentive Program, and render services in a dental Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) should be aware of this information.

Provider Action Needed

Change Request (CR) 7035, from which this article is taken, announces that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has developed a new EHR HPSA Modifier AZ, which will allow eligible professionals (EP) to report claims rendered in a dental HPSA when the ZIP code does not fully fall within that dental HPSA.

You should make sure that your billing staffs are aware of this new modifier. It is

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described in the Background section, below.

Background

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) (Pub. L. 111-5), which authorized the establishment of the EHR incentive program, authorizes CMS to make EHR incentive payments for certain Medicare EPs who are meaningful users of certified EHR technology.

EPs that are eligible to participate in the EHR incentive program include the following Medicare physicians:

- Doctor of Medicine
- Doctor of Osteopathy
- Doctor of Podiatric Medicine
- Doctor of Optometry
- Doctor of Oral Surgery
- Doctor of Dental Medicine
- Doctor of Chiropractic.

Note: All publicly available information on the EHR Incentive Program (which will begin in calendar year 2011) can be found at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/Recovery/index.html> on the CMS website, including a link to the proposed rule.

HPSA Information

An EP who furnishes services predominately in a HPSA is eligible for a 10 percent increase in the maximum EHR incentive payment amount, regardless of the type of HPSA in which the services were rendered. This means that any EP can perform services in any type of HPSA (primary care, mental health, or dental) and receive the increase in the maximum EHR HPSA incentive payment amount, as long as 50 percent or more of his/her services are performed in a HPSA.

Note: This definition of an EHR HPSA provider is different from the definition for Medicare Fee-For-Service (FFS) HPSA bonus payments.

For purposes of the EHR incentive program, services rendered in a HPSA will be identified either through the ZIP code on the claim, or through a modifier on the claim line. Providers currently reporting the non-dental HPSA modifier should continue to do so; this modifier will also be read for purposes of the EHR incentive payment increase.

In order to allow EPs to report claims rendered in a dental HPSA when the ZIP code does not fully fall within that dental HPSA, EPs must use the **new EHR HPSA modifier, AZ** (*"PHYSICIAN PROVIDING A SERVICE IN A DENTAL HEALTH*

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*PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA FOR THE PURPOSE OF AN ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD INCENTIVE PAYMENT”), which is effective for dates of service on or after January 1, 2011. The new modifier will **not** affect the payment or calculation of the FFS geographic quarterly HPSA bonus. The CMS will be responsible for determining which EPs are due the EHR HPSA incentive payment increase and determining the amount of the payment.*

Additional Information

For complete details regarding this Change Request (CR) please see the official instruction (CR7035) issued to your Medicare contractor. That instruction may be viewed by going to <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R7240TN.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have questions, please contact your Medicare contractor at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/provider-compliance-interactive-map/index.html> on the CMS website.

News Flash - Each Office Visit is an Opportunity. Medicare patients give many reasons for not getting their annual flu vaccination, but the fact is that there are 36,000 flu-related deaths in the United States each year, on average. More than 90% of these deaths occur in people 65 years of age and older. Please talk with your Medicare patients about the importance of getting their annual flu vaccination. This Medicare-covered preventive service will protect them for the entire flu season. And remember, vaccination is important for health care workers too, who may spread the flu to high risk patients. ***Don't forget to immunize yourself and your staff. Protect your patients. Protect your family. Protect yourself. Get Your Flu Vaccine - Not the Flu.*** Remember – Influenza vaccine plus its administration are covered Part B benefits. Note that influenza vaccine is NOT a Part D covered drug. For information about Medicare's coverage of the influenza vaccine and its administration, as well as related educational resources for health care professionals and their staff, please visit http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/Flu_Products.pdf and <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prevention/Immunizations/index.html> on the CMS website.

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