

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



News Flash –

NEW product from the Medicare Learning Network® (MLN)

- [“Safeguarding Your Medical Identity,”](#) Web-based Training (WBT) Course

Continuing education credits are available to learners who successfully complete this course. See course description for more information. To access the WBT, go to [Web-Based Training](#), and click on ‘Web-Based Training Courses’ under ‘Related Links’ at the bottom of the web page.

MLN Matters® Number: MM7883

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 7883

Related CR Release Date: August 24, 2012

Effective Date: January 1, 2013

Related CR Transmittal #: R2526CP

Implementation Date: January 7, 2013

2013 Annual Update for the Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) Bonus Payments

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for physicians, hospitals, and other providers who bill Medicare contractors (Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), carriers, or Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs).

Provider Action Needed

Change Request (CR) 7883, from which this article is taken, alerts you that the annual HPSA bonus payment file for 2013 will be made available by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to your Medicare contractor and will be used for HPSA bonus payments on applicable claims with dates of service on or after January 1, 2013, through December 31, 2013. These files will be posted to the internet on or about December 1, 2012. You should review

Disclaimer

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<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/HPSAPSAPhysicianBonuses/index.html> on the CMS website each year to determine whether you need to add the AQ modifier to their claim in order to receive the bonus payment, or to see if the ZIP code area in which you rendered services will automatically receive the HPSA bonus payment. Note that Medicare contractors will continue to accept the AQ modifier for partially designated HPSA claims. Please be sure that your staffs are aware of this update.

Background

The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) (Section 413(b)) mandated an annual update to the automated HPSA bonus payment file. CMS creates a new automated HPSA bonus payment file and provides it to your Medicare contractors each year. Contractors use this file for the automated bonus payment for claims with dates of service on or after January 1, 2013, through December 31, 2013. Contractors will continue to accept the AQ modifier for partially designated HPSA claims.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR 7883, issued to your FI, carrier, or A/B MAC regarding this change, may be viewed at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R2526CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

You will find annual HPSA files (as they become available) and other important HPSA information at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/HPSAPSAPhysicianBonuses/index.html> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your FI, carrier or A/B MAC 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.

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