

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



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MLN Matters® Number: MM9347

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 9347

Related CR Release Date: October 16, 2015

Effective Date: January 1, 2016

Related CR Transmittal #: R3375CP

Implementation Date: January 4, 2016

Announcement of Payment Rate Increase for Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) for Calendar Year (CY) 2016

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) submitting claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

Provider Action Needed

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 9347, which informs MACs about instructions for calendar year (CY) 2016 payment rate increase for RHCs. Make sure that your billing staff are aware of these changes.

Disclaimer

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Background

CR9347 provides instructions to the MACs for Calendar Year (CY) 2016 payment rate increases for RHCs. As authorized by section 1833(f) of the Social Security Act (the Act) (see http://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title18/1833.htm), the RHC payment limit for a subsequent year will be increased in accordance with the rate of increase in the Medicare Economic Index.

Effective January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016, the RHC payment limit per visit for CY 2016 is \$81.32.

The CY 2016 RHC rate reflects a 1.1 percent increase above the CY 2015 payment limit of \$80.44. The effective date of January 1, 2016 for the RHC payment rate increase is necessary in order to update the payment rates in accordance with the Act (section 1833(f)).

Your MAC will not retroactively adjust individual RHC bills paid at previous upper payment limits.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR 9347, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R3375CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your MAC at their toll-free number. That number is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/index.html> under - How Does It Work.

Each Office Visit is an Opportunity to Recommend Influenza Vaccination.

Protect your patients, your staff, and yourself. Medicare Part B covers one influenza vaccination and its administration each influenza season for Medicare beneficiaries. If medically necessary, Medicare may cover additional seasonal influenza vaccinations.

- [Preventive Services](#) Educational Tool
- [Influenza Vaccine Payment Allowances](#) MLN Matters Article
- [Influenza Resources for Health Care Professionals](#) MLN Matters Article
- [CDC Influenza](#) website

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