

Medlearn Matters Number: MM4201

Related Change Request (CR) #: 4201

Related CR Release Date: December 16, 2005

Effective Date: January 1, 2006

Related CR Transmittal #: 41

Implementation Date: January 18, 2006

Telehealth Originating Site Facility Fee Payment Amount Update

Provider Types Affected

All providers who bill Medicare for the telehealth originating site facility fee

Provider Action Needed

CR4201, upon which this article is based, provides the calendar year 2006 telehealth originating site facility fee payment update. Beginning on and after January 1, 2006, the telehealth originating site facility fee is \$22.47.

Background

Section 1834(m) of the Social Security Act (the Act) established the amount Medicare paid as the telehealth originating site facility fee for services provided from October 1, 2001, through December 31 2002. The amount was set at \$20.

For such services provided on or after January 1 of each subsequent calendar year, the telehealth originating site facility fee was increased as of the first day of the year by the percentage increase in the Medicare Economic Index (MEI).

The 2006 MEI increase is 2.8%. Thus, for calendar year 2006, the payment amount for HCPCS code Q3014 (telehealth originating site facility fee) is 80% of the lesser of the actual charge or \$22.47 (2.8% x \$21.86 [the 2005 fee – see below] + \$21.86).

Note that the beneficiary is responsible for any unmet deductible amount or coinsurance

For reference, the Medicare telehealth originating site facility fees and MEI increases by the applicable time period are shown in the table below:

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Medicare Telehealth Originating Site Facility Fee	MEI Increase	Period
\$20.00	N/A	10/01/2001-12/31/2002
\$20.60	3%	01/01/2003-12/31/2003
\$21.20	2.9%	01/01/2004-12/31/2004
\$21.86	3.1%	01/01/2005-12/31/2005
\$22.47	2.8%	01/01/2006-12/31/2006

Additional Information

You can find more information about the telehealth originating site facility fee payment amount by going to <http://new.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R41BP.pdf> on the CMS web site.

Finally, if you have any questions, please contact your carrier/intermediary at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/tollnums.asp> on the CMS web site.

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