

CMS Manual System	Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)
Pub 100-04 Medicare Claims Processing	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
Transmittal 1861	Date: November 27, 2009
	Change Request 6631

SUBJECT: Ambulance Inflation Factor for CY 2010

I. SUMMARY OF CHANGES: This Change Request provides the Ambulance Inflation Factor (AIF) for CY 2010 to CMS contractors. This Recurring Update Notification applies to Chapter 15, Section 20.4

New / Revised Material

Effective Date: January 1, 2010

Implementation Date: January 4, 2010

Disclaimer for manual changes only: The revision date and transmittal number apply only to red italicized material. Any other material was previously published and remains unchanged. However, if this revision contains a table of contents, you will receive the new/revised information only, and not the entire table of contents.

II. CHANGES IN MANUAL INSTRUCTIONS: (N/A if manual is not updated)

R=REVISED, N=NEW, D=DELETED-*Only One Per Row.*

R/N/D	Chapter / Section / Subsection / Title
R	15/20.4/Ambulance Inflation Factor (AIF)

III. FUNDING:

SECTION A: For Fiscal Intermediaries and Carriers:

No additional funding will be provided by CMS; contractor activities are to be carried out within their operating budgets.

SECTION B: For Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs):

The Medicare Administrative Contractor is hereby advised that this constitutes technical direction as defined in your contract. CMS does not construe this as a change to the MAC Statement of Work. The contractor is not obligated to incur costs in excess of the amounts allotted in your contract unless and until specifically authorized by the Contracting Officer. If the contractor considers anything provided, as described above, to be outside the current scope of work, the contractor shall withhold performance on the part(s) in question and immediately notify the Contracting Officer, in writing or by e-mail, and request formal directions regarding continued performance requirements.

IV. ATTACHMENTS:

Recurring Update Notification

Manual Instruction

**Unless otherwise specified, the effective date is the date of service.*

Attachment – Recurring Update Notification

Pub. 100-04	Transmittal: 1861	Date: November 27, 2009	Change Request: 6631
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SUBJECT: Ambulance Inflation Factor for CY 2010

Effective Date: January 1, 2010

Implementation Date: January 4, 2010

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Background: This document furnishes you with the CY 2010 ambulance inflation factor (AIF) for determining the payment limit for ambulance services required by section 1834(l)(3)(B) of the Social Security Act (the Act).

Section 1834(l) (3) (B) of the Act provides the basis for updating payment limits for ambulance services. Specifically, this section provides for an update in payments for 2010 that is equal to the percentage increase in the consumer price index for all urban consumers (CPI-U), for the 12-month period ending with June of the previous year. The resulting percentage is referred to as the AIF. Since the CPI-U for CY 2010 is a negative number (-1.4%), and the Act specifically provides for a percentage increase in the AIF only, the resulting AIF for CY 2010 will be held to zero percent.

B. Policy: This transmittal manualizes the AIF so that Medicare contractors can accurately determine payment amounts for ambulance services.

The AIF for calendar year 2010 is zero percent. Part B coinsurance and deductible requirements apply. The 2010 ambulance fee schedule file is available upon publication of the change request (CR). It may be retrieved at any time and will reside indefinitely for your access. It may be updated with each quarterly Common Working File (CWF) update.

II. BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS TABLE

Use "Shall" to denote a mandatory requirement

Number	Requirement	A / B M A C	D M E M A C	F I	C A R R I E R	R H I	Shared-System Maintainers				OTHER
							F I S S	M C S	V M S	C W F	
6631.1	Contractors shall use the CY 2010 AIF for determining the payment limit on claims for ambulance services furnished on or after January 1, 2010.	X		X	X		X				
6631.2	The 2010 ambulance fee schedule file shall be available on November 12, 2009 and downloaded. The contractors shall process	X		X	X		X				EDC/ data center

Number	Requirement	A / B M A C	D M E M A C	F I	C A R R I E R	R H I	Shared-System Maintainers				OTHER
							F I S S	M C S	V M S	C W F	
								2010 ambulance service claims. The address for the file is as follows: MU00. @AAA2390.AMBFS.CY2010.V1112			

III. PROVIDER EDUCATION TABLE

Number	Requirement	A / B M A C	D M E M A C	F I	C A R R I E R	R H I	Shared-System Maintainers				OTHER
							F I S S	M C S	V M S	C W F	
							6631.3	A provider education article related to this instruction will be available at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/ shortly after the CR is released. You will receive notification of the article release via the established "MLN Matters" listserv. Contractors shall post this article, or a direct link to this article, on their Web site and include information about it in a listserv message within 1 week of the availability of the provider education article. In addition, the provider education article shall be included in your next regularly scheduled bulletin. Contractors are free to supplement MLN Matters articles with localized information that would benefit their provider community in billing and administering the Medicare program correctly.	X		

IV. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

A. For any recommendations and supporting information associated with listed requirements, use the box below: N/A

Use "Should" to denote a recommendation.

X-Ref Requireme nt Number	Recommendations or other supporting information:

B. For all other recommendations and supporting information, use this space: N/A

V. CONTACTS

Pre-Implementation Contact(s): Roechel Kujawa, roechel.kujawa@cms.hhs.gov or on 410-786-9111

Post-Implementation Contact(s): Roechel Kujawa, roechel.kujawa@cms.hhs.gov or on 410-786-9111

VI. FUNDING

A. For Fiscal Intermediaries and Carriers:

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B. For Medicare Administrative Contractors (MAC):

The Medicare Administrative Contractor is hereby advised that this constitutes technical direction as defined in your contract. CMS does not construe this as a change to the MAC Statement of Work. The contractor is not obligated to incur costs in excess of the amounts allotted in your contract unless and until specifically authorized by the Contracting Officer. If the contractor considers anything provided, as described above, to be outside the current scope of work, the contractor shall withhold performance on the part(s) in question and immediately notify the Contracting Officer, in writing or by e-mail, and request formal directions regarding continued performance requirements.

20.4 - Ambulance Inflation Factor (AIF)

(Rev.1861, Issued: 11-27-09, Effective: 01-01-10, Implementation: 01-04-10)

Section 1834(l)(3)(B) of the Social Security Act (the Act) provides the basis for updating payment limits for ambulance services. Specifically, this section provides for an update in payments for 2010 that is equal to the percentage increase in the consumer price index for all urban consumers (CPI-U), for the 12-month period ending with June of the previous year. The resulting percentage is referred to as the AIF. Since the CPI-U for 2010 is a negative number (-1.4%), and the Act specifically provides for a percentage increase in the AIF only, the resulting AIF for CY 2010 will be held at zero percent.

The AIF for calendar year 2010 is zero percent. Part B coinsurance and deductible requirements apply. It may be retrieved at any time and will reside indefinitely for your access. It may be updated with each quarterly Common Working File (CWF) update.

Following is a chart tracking the history of the AIF:

<u>CY</u>	<u>AIF</u>
2003	1.1
2004	2.1
2005	3.3
2006	2.5
2007	4.3
2008	2.7
2009	5.0
2010	0.0