

MMA Section 1011, Federal Reimbursement of
Emergency Health Services Furnished to Undocumented Aliens
August 2010 Questions and Answers
New Contract Award

Q1: What was the outcome of the recent procurement for the Section 1011 Program?

A1: On March 31, 2010, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the award, for the national Section 1011 contract, to Highmark Medicare Services. This procurement was conducted as a full and open competition. A transition period will take place between August and December 2010

Q2: What impact will the change in contractors have on Section 1011 provider enrollment, payment requests, and customer services?

A2: A transition period will take place between August and December 2010. During this time, TrailBlazer Health Enterprises and Highmark Medicare Services will work collaboratively through a planned transition process. In the initial stages of this transition, TrailBlazer Health Enterprises will continue to be the primary contractor that will enroll eligible providers, assist providers with enrollment and billing questions, calculate provider payment amounts and serve as the compliance contractor. On approximately November 29, 2010, Highmark Medicare Services will commence the role as the primary Section 1011 contractor until the transition period is complete by December 31, 2010. Interested parties are encouraged to visit the TrailBlazer Web site at www.trailblazerhealth.com/section1011/ and sign up for the TrailBlazer Section 1011 listserv. Additional information regarding Highmark Medicare Services' website and listserv are forthcoming.

Q3: What contractor will be making the upcoming quarterly payment to Section 1011 providers?

A3: TrailBlazer Health Enterprises, LLC, will be making the first quarter payment for Federal fiscal year (FY) 2010 on August 30, 2010, and the second quarter FY 2010 payment on November 26, 2010. Highmark Medicare Services will make the third quarter FY 2010 payment in February, 2011.

Q4: Where can I find additional information regarding the Section 1011 program and how it is administered?

A4: CMS has an established a web site for Section 1011 which can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/providers/section1011/>. This Web site provides a link to the section 1011 statutory language at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/providers/section1011/sec1011.pdf> and an electronic copy of the Section 1011 Final Policy Notice at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/providers/section1011/policy_info.asp, which delineates critical program functions and methods such as (1) the general framework and procedural rules for submitting an enrollment application and payment requests, (2) general statements of policy, and (3) guiding rules for administering section 1011.