



2021 Annual Update for the Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) Bonus Payments

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Related Change Request (CR) Number: 11852

Related CR Release Date: August 28, 2020

Effective Date: January 1, 2021

Related CR Transmittal Number: R10323CP

Implementation Date: January 4, 2021

PROVIDER TYPES AFFECTED

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for physicians, other providers, and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services to Medicare beneficiaries.

PROVIDER ACTION NEEDED

This article informs you that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will provide MACs with files for the automated payments of Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) bonuses for dates of service January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021. Make sure that your billing staffs are aware of these changes.

BACKGROUND

A new automated HPSA bonus payment file is created annually. CR 11852 provides the name of the new file. Section 413(b) of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 mandated an annual update to the automated HPSA bonus payment file. The CMS-automated HPSA ZIP code file is populated using the latest designations as close as possible to November 1 of each year. The HPSA ZIP code file will be made available to MACs in early December of each year. MACs will implement the HPSA ZIP code file, and for claims with dates of service January 1 to December 31 of the following year, will make automatic HPSA bonus payments to physicians providing eligible services in a ZIP code contained on the file.

MACs will continue to accept the AQ modifier for partially designated HPSA claims.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The official instruction, CR 11852, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/r10323cp.pdf>.

If you have questions, your MACs may have more information. Find their website at <http://go.cms.gov/MAC-website-list>.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date of Change	Description
August 28, 2020	Initial article released.

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