

CMS Manual System	Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)
Pub 100-20 One-Time Notification	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
Transmittal 13571	Date: January 8, 2026
	Change Request 14338

SUBJECT: January 2026 Update for the Core Based Statistical Areas (CBSAs) for Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASCs)

I. SUMMARY OF CHANGES: The purpose of this Change Request (CR) is to provide changes to and billing instructions for revised CBSAs for 11 counties and county equivalents implemented in the January 2026 ASC payment system update.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2026

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

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: February 10, 2026

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
N/A	N/A

III. FUNDING:

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:

One Time Notification

Attachment - One-Time Notification

Pub. 100-20	Transmittal: 13571	Date: January 8, 2026	Change Request: 14338
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II. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Background: Revisions to the Calendar Year (CY) 2026 ASC Wage Index Effective January 1, 2026

In the CY 2025 Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) and ASC final rule, we finalized our proposal to use the new core-based statistical area (CBSA) delineations for the ASC payment system. Additionally, for CY 2025 and subsequent years, we finalized our policy to limit ASC wage index declines to no more than 5% in a CY.

In the April 2025 Update to the ASC payment system (CR 14017), we stated that, in 31 cases, counties and county equivalents would receive more than a 5% decline in their ASC wage index from the reassignment to their new CY 2025 CBSA. Therefore, to limit the ASC wage declines to no more than 5% for these 11 counties and county equivalents effective January 1, 2026, we reassigned these counties and county equivalents to a transition CBSA that provided the CY 2025 ASC wage index we finalized in the CY 2025 Hospital OPPS and ASC final rule with comment period, which limits the ASC wage index decline to no more than 5%.

B. Policy: For CY 2026, we no longer require 10 transition CBSAs for 11 counties and county equivalents as the final CY 2026 ASC wage index values of the revised CBSAs that were finalized in the CY 2025 Hospital OPPS and ASC final rule would not decline by more than 5% from their current CY 2025 ASC wage index value. Therefore, these 10 transition CBSAs are no longer necessary.

See Attachment A for the list of 11 county and county equivalents as well as their Federal Information Processing Standard codes, state, CY 2025 transition CBSA codes and descriptions, and CY 2026 CBSA codes and descriptions.

III. BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS TABLE

"Shall" denotes a mandatory requirement, and "should" denotes an optional requirement.

Number	Requirement	Responsibility							
		A/B MAC		D M E	Shared- System Maintainers				Other
		A	B	H H H	M A C	F I S	M C S	V M S	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RRB shall end-date the 2025 CBSA Codes that have been converted to a 2026 CBSA Code and apply the end date of December 31, 2025 to the 2025 CBSA Code. RRB shall apply the Effective Date of January 1, 2026 to the new 2026 CBSA Codes on each ASC record that has been converted. <p>NOTE: Reference Attachment A for CBSA crosswalk.</p>							

IV. PROVIDER EDUCATION

None

Impacted Contractors: None

V. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Section A: Recommendations and supporting information associated with listed requirements: N/A

"Should" denotes a recommendation.

X-Ref Requirement Number	Recommendations or other supporting information:

Section B: All other recommendations and supporting information: N/A

VI. CONTACTS

Post-Implementation Contact(s): Contact your Contracting Officer's Representative (COR).

VII. FUNDING

Section A: For Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs):

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ATTACHMENTS: 1

Attachment A

FIPS Code	County Name	State	CY 2025 CBSA	CY 2025 CBSA Name	CY 2026 CBSA	CY 2026 CBSA Name
17183	Vermilion	IL	50005	Vermilion County	14	Illinois
22045	Iberia	LA	50010	Iberia County	19	Louisiana
24009	Calvert	MD	50008	Calvert County	30500	Lexington Park, MD
24047	Worcester	MD	50009	Worcester County	21	Maryland
26155	Shiawassee	MI	50011	Shiawassee County	23	Michigan
27075	Lake	MN	50012	Lake County	24	Minnesota
36123	Yates	NY	50016	Yates County	33	New York
37087	Haywood	NC	50018	Haywood County	34	North Carolina
39123	Ottawa	OH	50019	Ottawa County	41780	Sandusky, OH
51175	Southampton	VA	50022	Rural Virginia Beach	49	Virginia
51620	Franklin City	VA	50022	Rural Virginia Beach	49	Virginia