

**MLN Matters Number: MM6206 Revised**      **Related Change Request (CR) #: 6206**

**Related CR Release Date: December 12, 2008**      **Effective Date: July 1, 2008**

**Related CR Transmittal #: R4140TN**      **Implementation Date: January 12, 2009**

## **Improved Access to Ambulance Services Payment Rates for Effective Dates of Service July 1, 2008, through December 31, 2009**

**Note:** This article was revised on April 25, 2018, to update Web addresses. All other information remains the same.

### **Provider Types Affected**

Ambulance providers and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare contractors (carriers, Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), and/or Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs)) for ambulance services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

### **What You Need to Know**

CR 6206, from which this article is taken announces an increase in payment for ground ambulance transports. Effective July 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009, the ambulance fee schedule amounts for covered ground ambulance transports which originate in rural areas are increased by three (3) percent, and for covered ground ambulance transports which originate non-rural areas, they are increased by two (2) percent.

You should ensure that your billing staffs are aware of these ambulance fee schedule increases.

### **Background**

Section 146(a) of Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPAA) amends Section 1834(1)(13) of the Social Security Act to provide an increase in payment for ground transports, effective for claims with dates of service on or after July 1, 2008, and before January 1, 2010.

It increases the ambulance fee schedule amounts for:

- Covered ground ambulance transports which originate in a rural area by three (3) percent; and

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- Covered ground ambulance transports which originate in a non-rural area by two (2) percent.

Until the new fee schedule files have been tested and implemented, your carrier, FI, MAC will hold all of your ground ambulance claims affected by these changes and release them for processing when the files are implemented.

They will also identify ambulance claims (with dates of service on or after July 1, 2008) that were not paid at the rates that CR 6206 provides; and (to the extent possible) automatically reprocess them within 30 days of the release date of CR 6206. In addition, they will adjust claims that cannot be automatically identified and adjusted, if you bring such claims to their attention. Finally, you should be aware that your carrier, FI, or MAC will follow their normal processes for transmitting the adjusted claims to supplemental insurers, where appropriate.

### **Additional Information**

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The official instruction, CR 6206, issued to your carrier, FI, or MAC is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R414OTN.pdf>.

If you have any questions, please contact your carrier, FI, or MAC at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/provider-compliance-interactive-map/index.html>.

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## Document History

Date of Change	Description
April 25, 2018	This article was revised to update Web addresses.
November 8, 2011	his article was revised to add a reference to <a href="#">MLN Matters® article MM7558</a> that alerts ambulance suppliers that the Medicare and Medicaid Extension Act of 2010 extends the increase in ambulance fee schedule amounts for covered ground ambulance transports through December 31, 2011.
December 14, 2008	Initial article released

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