

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



Revised products from the Medicare Learning Network® (MLN)

- [“Sole Community Hospital,”](#) Fact Sheet, ICN 006399, Downloadable only.

MLN Matters® Number: MM7896

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 7896

Related CR Release Date: June 7, 2013

Effective Date: January 1, 2013

Related CR Transmittal #: R2719CP

Implementation Date: September 9, 2013

Pass-through Payments for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) Anesthesia Services and Related Care

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for rural hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) submitting claims to Medicare contractors (Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs) and A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs)) for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) services.

Provider Action Needed

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 7896, which clarifies that effective January 1, 2013, in addition to anesthesia services, qualifying CAHs and rural hospitals can receive CRNA pass-through payments for services the CRNA is legally authorized to perform in the state in which the services are furnished. Make sure that your billing staffs are aware of this update.

Background

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has received questions concerning whether, in addition to anesthesia, other CRNA services are eligible for pass-through payments. CR7896 applies to

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rural hospitals and to CAHs that are eligible for CRNA pass-through payments and provides clarification concerning which services are eligible for pass-through payments consistent with the regulatory change made in the calendar year 2013 Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule. In that rule, the definition of “Anesthesia and related care” was added to the regulations at 42 CFR 410.69(b). The regulation change is discussed in the November 16, 2012 Federal Register page 69005 (77 FR 69005).

The Social Security Act, Section 1861(bb), defines the term “services of a certified registered nurse anesthetist” to mean “anesthesia services and related care furnished by a certified registered nurse anesthetist (as defined in paragraph (2)) which the nurse anesthetist is legally authorized to perform as such by the State in which the services are furnished.” In the calendar year 2013 Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule, CMS amended the regulations at 42 CFR 410.69(b) by adding a definition of “Anesthesia and related care,” which reads “*Anesthesia and related care* means those services that a certified registered nurse anesthetist is legally authorized to perform in the state in which the services are furnished.” Therefore, CMS is clarifying that effective January 1, 2013, in addition to anesthesia services, qualifying CAHs and rural hospitals can receive CRNA pass-through payments for services the CRNA is legally authorized to perform in the state in which the services are furnished.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR7896, issued to your Medicare contractor regarding this change, may be viewed at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R2719CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your Medicare contractor at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.

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