



News Flash – PQRI Tool Kit Available

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is pleased to announce that the 2007 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) Tool Kit is now available. To access the Tool Kit, visit the PQRI web page at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI> on the CMS website, then go to the PQRI Tool Kit section. To access all of the other resources you need to assist in successful reporting, go to the Educational Resources section of the previously mentioned website.

MLN Matters Number: MM5625

Related Change Request (CR) #: 5625

Related CR Release Date: June 29, 2007

Effective Date: October 1, 2007

Related CR Transmittal #: R1273CP

Implementation Date: October 1, 2007

Revision to Internet Only Manual (IOM) Pub 100-04, Chapter 12, Section 90.4 Billing and Payment in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)

Provider Types Affected

Physicians who bill Medicare carriers and Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs) for services rendered in HPSAs

What Physicians Need to Know

CR 5625, from which this article is taken, informs carriers and A/B MACs that they no longer have to maintain a separate Web site of HPSA designated areas for you to use concerning claims for the HPSA bonus payment. Rather, your contractor's website will have links to a Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) website (<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/hpsapsaphysicianbonuses>) and a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) website (<http://www.bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage>). These sites will be available to help you when filing HPSA bonus payment claims.

You should make sure that your billing staffs are aware of these changes.

Background

Disclaimer

This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.

CMS is simplifying the process of determining designations that are eligible to receive the Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) bonus payment; in order to ensure a more accurate method of 1) paying claims in areas that are designated for the HPSA bonus payment, and 2) reducing the risk of overpayments in area that are not designated as HPSA bonus payment areas.

To reflect these changes, Medicare Claims Processing manual (100-04) Chapter 12 (Physician/Practitioner Billing), Section 90.4 (Billing and Payment in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)) is being updated; and CR 5625, from which this article is taken, revises how Medicare contractors will disseminate information about HPSA bonus payment to the provider community.

Per these revisions, carriers will no longer maintain an updated website of HPSA designations for physicians to use when filing HPSA bonus payment claims. The carriers, instead, will be required to provide two direct links for you to use when filing HPSA bonus payment claims. Those links are:

- To the CMS site, to verify automated HPSA bonus designation status, which you can access at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/hpsapsaphysicianbonuses/>; and
- To the HRSA site, to verify HPSA bonus designation status, which you can access at <http://www.bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/> on the Internet.

You should be aware that CMS will continue to automatically pay a bonus for those ZIP codes that are considered to fully fall in the county based on a determination of dominance made by the United States Postal Service (USPS) and for those ZIP codes that fully fall within a partial county HPSA (effective for services rendered on or after the date of designation by HRSA)

However, for those ZIP codes that do not fully fall within a full county HPSA or fully within a non full county HPSA, you must continue to enter the AQ modifier on the claim in order to receive the bonus.

Additional Information

You can find the official instruction, CR5625, issued to your carrier or A/B MAC by visiting <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1273CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your carrier or A/B MAC at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.

Disclaimer

This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.