



News Flash - It's Not Too Late to Give and Get the Flu Shot! In the U.S., the peak of flu season typically occurs anywhere from late December through March; however, flu season can last as late as May. Each office visit presents an opportunity for you to talk with your patients about the importance of getting an annual flu shot and a one time pneumococcal vaccination. Protect yourself, your patients, and your family and friends by getting and giving the flu shot. **Don't Get the Flu. Don't Give the Flu. Get Vaccinated!** Remember - Influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations and their administration are covered Part B benefits. Note that influenza and pneumococcal vaccines are NOT Part D covered drugs. You and your staff can learn more about Medicare's coverage of adult immunizations and related provider education resources, by reviewing Special Edition MLN Matters article SE0748 at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0748.pdf> on the CMS website.

MLN Matters Number: MM5937

Related Change Request (CR) #: 5937

Related CR Release Date: February 5, 2008

Effective Date: January 1, 2008

Related CR Transmittal #: R1434CP

Implementation Date: January 7, 2008 for contractors processing claims from institutions; no later than 30 days from issuance for carriers and A/B MACs processing professional claims

Extension of the Dates of Service Eligible for the Physician Scarcity Area (PSA) Bonus Payment

Provider Types Affected

Physicians, and other providers, who bill Medicare contractors (fiscal intermediaries (FI), carriers, or Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MAC)) for providing services to Medicare beneficiaries in designated physician scarcity areas.

What You Need to Know

CR 5937, from which this article is taken announces the extension of the physician scarcity area (PSA) bonus payment for dates of service through June 30, 2008. You should make sure that your billing staffs are aware of this PSA bonus payment extension.

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Background

Section 413(a) of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) required the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to pay a 5% bonus to physicians in a designated PSA for dates of service from January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2007. The Medicare, Medicaid, and State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) Extension Act of 2007 amended Section 1833(u)(1) of the Social Security Act, extending the payment of the PSA bonus for dates of service through June 30, 2008. CR 5937, from which this article is taken, announces this extension and provides Medicare contractors with implementing instructions.

Medicare contractors will continue to pay PSA bonuses for dates of service from January 1, 2005 through June 30, 2008, regardless of whether the bonus is requested through submission of a modifier or made through an automated payment based on ZIP code. The primary care and specialty care scarcity areas in effect on December 31, 2007 will be used for 2008 services. Fiscal Intermediaries (FI) and Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs) processing Part A claims will implement this CR on January 7, 2008, and carriers and A/B MACs Processing Part B claims will implement it 30 days from issuance;

Carriers and A/B MACs processing Part B claims will identify claims that contain the AR modifier (physician providing services in a PSA) and are submitted with dates of service on or after January 1, 2008 and processed prior to this CR's implementation so that they may be included in the calculation in the first quarterly 2008 bonus payment. Additionally, when brought to their attention, carriers and A/B MACs processing Part B claims will re-open and re-process claims with these dates of service that are processed prior to the CR's implementation date in order to include the AR modifier and make the appropriate bonus payment.

Additional Information

You can find the official instruction, CR 5937, issued to your FI, carrier, or A/B MAC by visiting <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1434CP.pdf> on the CMS website. The updated *Medicare Claims Processing Manual*, Chapter 4 (Part B Hospital (Including Inpatient Hospital Part B and OPPS)), Sections 250.2.1 (Billing and Payment in a Physician Scarcity Area (PSA)) and 250.2.2 (Zip Code Files); and *Medicare Claims Processing Manual*, Chapter 12 (Physicians/Nonphysician Practitioners, Sections 90.5 (Billing and Payment in a Physician Scarcity Area (PSA)) and 90.5.2 (Identifying Physician Scarcity Area Locations) are attachments to that CR.

If you have any questions, please contact your FI, carrier, or A/B MAC at their toll-free number, which may be found at

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<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip>
on the CMS website.

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