
Program Memorandum

Carriers

Department of Health and
Human Services (DHHS)
HEALTH CARE FINANCING
ADMINISTRATION (HCFA)

Transmittal B-00-12

Date: MARCH 2000

CHANGE REQUEST 1100

SUBJECT: Notification Process for Changes to Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) Designations

On September 20, 1999, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) published the notice "List of Designated Primary Medical Care, Mental Health, and Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas" in the *Federal Register*. This notice provides a list of all the health professional shortage area (HPSAs) designated by HRSA through July 30, 1999. You may access this *Federal Register* notice at <http://www.access.gpo.gov>.

This list supersedes the HRSA notice published in the *Federal Register* of May 30, 1997, and the July 1999 HRSA quarterly report regarding current HPSAs. Compare this list with your HPSA records. Geographic HPSAs which appear on the *Federal Register* list but for which you have neither a designation letter or a quarterly report record have an effective date of **March 1, 2000**. Geographic HPSAs having previously appeared in designation letters and quarterly reports prior to July 30, 1999, but missing from the *Federal Register* list, have been withdrawn by HRSA as of July 30, 1999, with a HCFA effective date of **March 1, 2000**. HCFA effective dates have been calculated according to the instructions contained in the Medicare Carriers Manual (MCM) §3350.

The designations in this September 1999 *Federal Register* notice relating to geographic HPSAs supersedes the May 1997 *Federal Register* listing and the July 1999 quarterly updates that we have provided to you. Since the publication of the September 1999 *Federal Register* notice, we have sent to you, ongoing updates of geographic HPSA designations as well as the October 1999, and the January 2000 quarterly summation reports of these updates. Since you have already taken actions on the ongoing updates with effective dates that we have provided to you (and which generally should be reflected in the September 1999 *Federal Register* and in the two quarterly updates), we are requesting that you take two actions: (1) ensure that your system has captured the additions to and changes in the geographic HPSA designations as reflected in the September 1999 *Federal Register* as well as the routine and quarterly updates that you have received from HCFA to date; and (2) ensure that your system reflect the deletions in HPSA geographic designations that are reported in the September 1999 *Federal Register* listing. Changes in your system to correct any changes, omissions, or inconsistencies identified as a result of these two actions should be made effective within the time frame determined in accordance with §3350 of the MCM; that is, by the first day of the second month after the date of our notification to you (March 1, 2000).

The effective date for this Program Memorandum (PM) is March 1, 2000.

The implementation date for this PM is April 1, 2000.

These instructions should be implemented within your current operating budget.

This PM may be discarded after April 1, 2001.

If you have any questions, contact your regional office representative.

