



CSR Inquiry Assistance

Related Medlearn Matters Article #: MM4232

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Announcement of Medicare Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) Payment Rate Increases

Key Words

MM4232, CR4232, RHC, FQHC, Clinic, MEI, Payment, Rate

Provider Types Affected

Providers billing Medicare fiscal intermediaries (FIs) for services to Medicare beneficiaries in RHCs and FQHCs

Key Points

- The effective date of the instruction is January 1, 2006.
- The implementation date is April 3, 2006.
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) must annually update the Rural Health Clinic (RHC) and Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) payment limits according to the rate of increase in the Medicare Economic Index (MEI), in accordance with the Social Security Act, Section 1833(f).
- Based on the rate of increase in the MEI, the 2006 payment rate for RHCs and FQHCs reflects a 2.8 percent increase over their 2005 payment limit.
- Change Request (CR) 4232 announces the following changes in RHC and FQHC payments rates:
 - Effective January 01, 2006 through December 31, 2006 (i.e., CY 2006), the upper Medicare payment limit per visit is \$72.76 for RHCs (increased from \$70.78).
 - Effective January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006 (i.e., CY 2006) the maximum Medicare payment limit per visit is \$112.96 for Urban FQHCs (increased from \$109.88) and \$97.13 for Rural FQHCs (increased from \$94.48).

Important Links

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedlearnMattersArticles/downloads/mm4232.pdf>

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R796CP.pdf>

http://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title18/1833.htm.