



News Flash - Your Medicare Payments Could Be Reduced If The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Needs To Collect Overdue Taxes That You Owe - The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, Section 1024, authorizes the IRS to reduce certain federal payments, including Medicare payments, to allow collection of overdue taxes. Should you owe such taxes and your payments are reduced, your remittance advice will reflect a provider level adjustment code (PLB) of "WU" in the PLB03-1 data field. For more information, please see MLN Matters Article #MM6125 available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6125.pdf> on the CMS website.

MLN Matters Number: MM6150

Related Change Request (CR) #: 6150

Related CR Release Date: August 29, 2008

Effective Date: January 1, 2009

Related CR Transmittal #: R1582CP

Implementation Date: January 5, 2009

2009 Annual Update for the Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) Bonus Payments

Provider Types Affected

Physicians and other providers who bill Medicare Carriers, Fiscal Intermediaries (FI), or Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MAC) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA).

What You Need to Know

CR 6150, from which this article is taken provides your carriers, FIs, and A/B MACs with the names of the test and final files for the Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) bonus payments for 2009 and alerts providers that the 2009 file will be posted to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website when it is available.

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.

The Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) (Section 413(b)) mandated that the automated HPSA bonus payment files be updated annually. CMS creates a new automated HPSA bonus payment file and provides it to your Medicare contractors in early December of each year. CR 6150, from which this article is taken, provides them the names of the test and final 2009 HPSA bonus payment files which contractors will use for the automated bonus payment for claims with dates of service on or after January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2009.

You will find the annual HPSA bonus payment file (as it becomes available) and other important HPSA information at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/hpsapsaphysicianbonuses/> on the CMS website. You should also review the CMS website to determine whether a HPSA bonus will automatically be paid for services provided in your ZIP code area or whether a modifier must be submitted. You can determine if you are eligible for the automated payment by going to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HPSAPSAPhysicianBonuses/Downloads/instructions.pdf> on the CMS website and following the instructions on the page.

Additional Information

You can find the official instruction, CR 6150, issued to your carrier, FI, or A/B MAC by visiting <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1582CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your carrier, FI, 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.

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