

MLN Matters Number: MM4113

Related Change Request (CR) #: 4113

Related CR Release Date: October 14, 2005

Effective Date: January 1, 2006

Related CR Transmittal #: 722

Implementation Date: January 3, 2006

2006 Annual Update for the Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) Bonus Payments

Note: This article was revised to contain web addresses that conform to the new CMS website and to show they are now MLN Matters articles. All other information remains the same.

Provider Types Affected

Physicians who provide services in designated HPSAs

Provider Action Needed



STOP – Impact to You

New information on the new automated HPSA bonus payments for 2006 is posted on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website.



CAUTION – What You Need to Know

Section 413(b) of the Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 mandated an annual update to the automated HPSA bonus payment files. This CR provides those files for claims with dates of service on or after January 1, 2006, through December 31, 2006.



GO – What You Need to Do

You should review the information on the CMS web site to determine if you qualify for the HPSA bonus payment for 2006.

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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.

Background

Section 1833(m) of the Social Security Act provides a 10 percent bonus payment for physicians who furnish medical care services in geographic areas that the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) designates as primary medical care Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs).

MMA Section 413(b) required CMS to annually update the bonus payment files, and CR4113 provides the names of those updated files for 2006. To find details regarding the HPSA bonus payments, please visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0449.pdf> on the CMS website.

The updated list of HPSA zip codes for calendar year (CY) 2006 can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HPSAPSAPhysicianBonuses/> on the CMS website.

Additional Information

You can find more information about the HPSA bonus payment by going to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/Downloads/R722CP.pdf> on the CMS website. You can also go to the MLN Matters Provider Education webpage at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/01_Overview.asp#TopOfPage to find other MLN Matters articles that address the bonus payments.

Special Edition articles SE0449, SE0453, and SE0450 and MLN Matters articles MM3108, MM3827, MM3822, MM3336, and MM3800 all address HPSA issues. From this website, you can also look at the CRs from which the articles were derived by clicking on the respective Transmittal number.

You might also want to look at the *Medicare Claims Processing Manual* (Publication 100.04), Chapter 12 (Physician/Practitioner Billing), Section 90.4 (Billing and Payment in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)).

You can find this manual at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/downloads/clm104c12.pdf> on the CMS website.

Finally, if you have any questions, please contact your carrier/intermediary 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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