



Related MLN Matters Article #: MM4313

Date Posted: February 13, 2005

Related CR #: 4313

New 2006 Payment Rate for Services Paid Under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS)

Key Words

MM4313, CR4313, R2070TN, payment, rate, schedule, MPFS

Provider Types Affected

Physicians, suppliers, and providers billing Medicare contractors (Carriers, Regional Home Health Intermediaries (RHHIs) and/or Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs)) for services paid under the MPFS provided to Medicare beneficiaries

Key Points

- The effective date of the instruction is January 1, 2006.
- The change is effective retroactive for service on or after January 1, 2006.
- Change Request (CR) 4313 states that Congress has amended the physician update from a negative 4.4 percent (-4.4%) update to a zero percent (0%) update for services provided on or after January 1, 2006, and paid under the MPFS.
- Within two days of the enactment of the legislation, Medicare contractors (i.e., carriers, FIs, and RHHIs) will begin to automatically reprocess those claims paid at the -4.4% update.
- Claims processed with the -4.4 percent rates will be reprocessed with the new rates and adjustments will be made.
- Medicare contractors will complete the necessary adjustments no later than July 1, 2006.
- In the event your claims are not adjusted by your carrier/FI/RHHI, contact them to bring the issue to their attention, and they will make the adjustments.
- New MPFS fees will be posted on the carrier sites as soon as possible after the bill is signed by the President.
- Carriers may charge a reasonable fee for mailing a hardcopy version of the MPFS if you choose not to access the MPFS via the internet.

- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will create another participation enrollment period that will begin after the President signs the bill, and the enrollment period will run for 45 days.
- Services not paid under the MPFS (i.e., DME, Lab, ambulance, etc.), are not affected by CR 4313.

Important Links

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM4313.pdf>

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R207OTN.pdf>

If you have any questions, please refer to your local carrier, FI, or RHHI at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/contacts> on the CMS website.