

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



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MLN Matters® Number: MM9342

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 9342

Related CR Release Date: October 9, 2015

Effective Date: January 1, 2016

Related CR Transmittal #: R3370CP

Implementation Date: January 4, 2016

2016 Annual Update for the Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) Bonus Payments

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for physicians submitting claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services provided in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) to Medicare beneficiaries.

Provider Action Needed

Change Request (CR) 9342 alerts you that the annual HPSA bonus payment file for 2016 will be made available by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to your MAC and will be used for HPSA bonus payments on applicable claims with dates of service on or after January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016. You should review Physician Bonuses webpage at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/HPSAPSAPhysicianBonuses> each year to determine whether you need to add modifier AQ to your claim in order to receive the bonus payment, or to see if the ZIP code in which you rendered services will automatically receive the HPSA bonus payment. Make sure that your billing staffs are aware of these changes.

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Background

Section 413(b) of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 mandated an annual update to the automated HPSA bonus payment file. CMS automated HPSA ZIP code file shall be populated using the latest designations as close as possible to November 1 of each year. The HPSA ZIP code file shall be made available to contractors in early December of each year. MACs will implement the HPSA ZIP code file and for claims with dates of service January 1 to December 31 of the following year, shall make automatic HPSA bonus payments to physicians providing eligible services in a ZIP code contained on the file.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR 9342 issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R3370CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your MAC at their toll-free number. That number is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/index.html> under - How Does It Work.

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