Medicare Learning Network
MLN Matters®
CMS CENTERS for MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES
Information for Medicare Fee-for-Service Health Care Professionals

News Flash – Medicare will cover immunizations for H1N1 influenza also called the "swine flu." There will be no coinsurance or copayment applied to this benefit, and beneficiaries will not have to meet their deductible. H1N1 influenza vaccine is currently under production and will be available in the Fall of 2009. For more information, go to ***http://www.cms.hhs.gov/H1N1*** on the CMS website.

MLN Matters® Number: MM6631 | **Related Change Request (CR) #: 6631**

Related CR Release Date: November 27, 2009 | **Effective Date: January 1, 2010**

Related CR Transmittal #: R1861CP | **Implementation Date: January 4, 2010**

Ambulance Inflation Factor (AIF) for Calendar Year (CY) 2010

Provider Types Affected

This article is for providers and suppliers of ambulance services who bill Medicare carriers, fiscal intermediaries (FIs), or Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs) for those services.

What You Need to Know

Change Request (CR) 6631, from which this article is taken, provides the AIF for CY 2010. The AIF for CY 2010 is zero (0).

Background

Section 1834(l) (3) (B) of the Social Security Act (the Act) provides the basis for updating payment limits that carriers, FIs, and A/B MACs use to determine how much to pay you for the claims that you submit for ambulance services.

Specifically, this section of the Act provides for a 2010 payment update that is equal to the percentage increase in the urban consumer price index (CPI-U), for the 12-month period ending with June of the previous year. The resulting percentage is referred to as the AIF.

The following table displays the AIF for CY 2010 and for the previous 7 years.

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Ambulance Inflation Factor by CY	
2010	0.0%
2009	5.0%
2008	2.7%
2007	4.3%
2006	2.5%
2005	3.3%
2004	2.1%
2003	1.1%

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR 6631, issued to your carrier, FI, and/or A/B MAC regarding this change may be viewed at ***http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1861CP.pdf*** on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (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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