



Update to Rural Health Clinic (RHC) All Inclusive Rate (AIR) Payment Limit for Calendar Year (CY) 2020

MLN Matters Number: MM11498

Related Change Request (CR) Number: 11498

Related CR Release Date: October 4, 2019

Effective Date: January 1, 2020

Related CR Transmittal Number: R4408CP

Implementation Date: January 6, 2020

PROVIDER TYPE AFFECTED

This MLN Matters® Article is for Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) submitting claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services to Medicare beneficiaries.

PROVIDER ACTION NEEDED

CR 11498, informs the MACs about updates to the CY 2019 payment limit for (RHCs). Make your billing staff aware of these changes.

BACKGROUND

Medicare Part B payment to RHCs is 80 percent of the All-Inclusive Rate (AIR), subject to a payment limit for medically necessary medical and qualified preventive face-to-face visits with a practitioner and a Medicare beneficiary for RHC services. As authorized by Section 1833(f) of the Social Security Act (the Act), payment limits for a subsequent year are increased in accordance with the rate of increase in the Medicare Economic Index (MEI). Based on historical data through second quarter 2019, the CY 2020 MEI is 1.9 percent. The RHC payment limit per visit for CY 2020 is \$86.31, effective January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020. The CY 2020 RHC payment limit reflects a 1.9 percent increase above the CY 2019 payment limit of \$84.70.

To avoid unnecessary administrative burden, MACs will not retroactively adjust individual RHC bills paid at a previous payment limit. However, MACs have the discretion to make adjustments to the interim payment rate or a lump sum adjustment to total payments already made to take into account any excess or deficiency in payments to date.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The official instruction, CR11498, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2019Downloads/R4408CP.pdf>.

If you have questions, your MACs may have more information. Find their website at <http://go.cms.gov/MAC-website-list>.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date of Change	Description
November 12, 2019	Initial article released.

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