



150 State Street, Suite 301 Albany, New York 12207-1698 Telephone (518) 449-2707 Fax (518) 455-8908 Web www.nyahsa.org

Correction to Medicare Part B Rates

ABSTRACT: Congress acts to increase Medicare Part B rates by 2.2 percent.

The President Signs the *Preservation of Access to Care for Medicare Beneficiaries and Pension Relief Act of 2010* -- 2.2 Percent Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Update for June 1, 2010, Through November 30, 2010

On June 25, 2010, President Obama signed into law the “Preservation of Access to Care for Medicare Beneficiaries and Pension Relief Act of 2010.” This law establishes a 2.2 percent update to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) payment rates retroactive from June 1 through November 30, 2010. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has directed Medicare claims administration contractors to discontinue processing claims at the negative update rates and to temporarily hold all claims for services rendered June 1, 2010, and later, until the new 2.2 percent update rates are tested and loaded into the Medicare contractors’ claims processing systems. Effective testing of the new 2.2 percent update will ensure that claims are correctly paid at the new rates. We expect to begin processing claims at the new rates no later than July 1, 2010. Claims for services rendered prior to June 1, 2010, will continue to be processed and paid as usual.

Claims containing June 2010 dates of service which have been paid at the negative update rates will be reprocessed as soon as possible. Under current law, Medicare payments to physicians and other providers paid under the MPFS are based upon the lesser of the submitted charge on the claim or the MPFS amount. Claims containing June dates of service that were submitted with charges greater than or equal to the new 2.2 percent update rates will be automatically reprocessed. Affected physicians/providers who submitted claims containing June dates of service with charges less than the 2.2 percent update amount will need to contact their local Medicare contractor to request an adjustment. Submitted charges on claims cannot be altered without a request from the physician/provider. Physicians/providers should not resubmit claims already submitted to their Medicare contractor.

NYAHSA and AAHSA advocacy played a critical role in persuading Congress to pass this measure. NYAHSA wishes to acknowledge and thank our members who continued to advocate for this important correction.

Please contact Patrick Cucinelli at pcucinelli@nyahsa.org or call 518-449-2707 ext. 145 with any questions.