

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



News Flash – If you are a Medicare Fee-For-Service (FFS) physician, provider, or supplier submitting claims to Medicare for payment, this is very important information you need to know. Effective immediately, any Medicare Fee-For-Service claim with a date of service on or after January 1, 2010, must be received by your Medicare contractor no later than one Calendar Year (12 months) from the claim's date of service – or Medicare will deny the claim. For additional information, see Medicare Learning Network (MLN) Matters® Articles MM6960 at <http://www.cms.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/MM6960.pdf> and MM7080 at <http://www.cms.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/MM7080.pdf> on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website.

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Summary Information Regarding Medicare's Primary Care Incentive Payment Program (PCIP)

Provider Types Affected

Physicians and nonphysician practitioners (NPPs), who bill Medicare Carriers or Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs) for primary care services rendered to Medicare beneficiaries, are affected by this information.

What You Need to Know



STOP – Impact to You

The Affordable Care Act provides for a 10 percent Medicare incentive payment to eligible physicians and NPPs for specified primary care services effective for services

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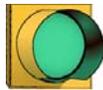
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furnished on or after January 1, 2011 and before January 1, 2016. Payments will be made on a quarterly basis.



CAUTION – What You Need to Know

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) published several recent articles informing you about Section 5501(a) of The Affordable Care Act, which provides for an incentive payment for primary care services furnished on or after January 1, 2011, and before January 1, 2016, by a primary care physician or NPP. These articles explain how the program would pay the incentive payment to eligible primary care physicians and NPPs, including newly enrolled physicians and NPPs, who furnish primary care services in various settings. You may review these articles, which are listed in the Additional Information section below.



GO – What You Need to Do

The background section of this article provides answers to common questions for physicians and NPPs on the Primary Care Incentive Payment Program (PCIP).

Background

CMS has compiled the following list of questions and answers to respond to the inquiries it has received on the PCIP:

Q1. How does Section 5501(a) of the Affordable Care Act change Medicare?

A1. Beginning with services rendered on or after January 1, 2011 and continuing through December 31, 2015, Section 5501(a) of the Affordable Care Act authorizes an incentive payment of 10 percent of Medicare's payments to be paid to qualifying primary care physicians and NPPs who furnish specified primary care services.

Q2. Which Medicare specialty designations may potentially qualify as primary care physicians or NPPs?

A2. A potentially qualified primary care physician or NPP, as defined in Section 1833 (x) of the Social Security Act, is a physician with a Medicare specialty designation of family medicine, internal medicine, geriatric medicine, or pediatric medicine or an NPP with a specialty designation of Nurse Practitioner (NP), Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS), or Physician Assistant (PA).

Q3. How can I confirm my primary specialty designation in Medicare?

A3. You may contact your Medicare claims processing contractor to confirm your primary Medicare specialty designation. Medicare allows two specialty designations

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upon enrollment' however, PCIP payment eligibility is only determined on the primary specialty designation.

Q4. What are the additional qualifying criteria for the primary care incentive payment program?

A4. Physicians and NPPs of a potentially qualifying specialty whose primary care percentage from historical claims data for the specified period, calculated as primary care allowed charges divided by the total Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) allowed charges excluding hospital inpatient and emergency department visits, and then multiplied by 100, exceeds 60 percent will be eligible for the PCIP.

For established physicians and NPPs enrolled in the Medicare program two years prior to the PCIP payment year, the primary care percentage is calculated based on claims data from 2 years prior to the PCIP payment year. Medicare annually identifies the national provider identification numbers (NPIs) of qualified primary care physician and nonphysician practitioners for each PCIP payment year.

Q5. What are the specific primary care services that are eligible for incentive payments?

A5. The specific services are defined by the following Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes:

- 99201 through 99215 (office and other outpatient visits).
- 99304 through 99340 (nursing facility, domiciliary, rest home, or custodial care).
- 99341 through 99350 (home services).

Only the services reflected in the CPT ranges above will be eligible for primary care incentive payments.

Q6. What if I am a physician or NPP newly enrolled in Medicare and do not have claims data from two years prior to the PCIP payment year?

Q6. For newly enrolled Medicare practitioners who do not have claims data from two years prior to the PCIP payment year upon which an eligibility determination can be made, Medicare will make PCIP eligibility determinations based upon the claims data from the year before the PCIP payment year. There is no minimum amount of claims data required from that year and eligibility determination will be made based on the claims data available, with no minimum time period.

Due to the lag-time in processing claims, PCIP eligibility for new physicians and NPPs will be determined after the close of the third quarter of the PCIP payment year and a single cumulative PCIP payment for all eligible primary care services furnished in the PCIP payment year by that newly enrolled, eligible primary care physician or NPP will be made after the close of the fourth quarter of the PCIP payment year. For

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specific implementation instructions for this provision, see MLN Matters® article MM7267 referenced in the Additional Information section below.

Q7. How can I verify my percentage of primary care services from the claims data year used for eligibility determination (for example, CY 2009 data for the CY 2011 PCIP payment year)?

A7. You may contact your Medicare claims processing contractor to confirm your percentage of primary care services for CY 2009.

Q8. Do I need to enroll in the PCIP program to participate?

A8. No, there is no enrollment process for participation in the PCIP. The NPIs of qualified primary care physicians and NPPs are identified by CMS based on an analysis of historical Medicare claims.

Q9. How can I confirm that I am eligible for the PCIP?

A9. In the beginning of the PCIP payment year, each Medicare claims processing contractor is provided a national PCIP eligibility file that identifies the NPIs of all eligible primary care physicians and NPPs. If your NPI is on the list, you are automatically eligible for PCIP payments in the applicable PCIP payment year. This file may be viewed on your Medicare contractor's website.

Q10. If I qualify for the PCIP payments in Calendar Year (CY) 2011, will I have to qualify again for the remaining PCIP payment years?

Q10. Yes, each physician or NPP must requalify for each PCIP payment year. Eligibility for established physicians and NPPs is determined using claims data from the most recent full calendar year (CY) of data available. For example, CY 2011 PCIP payment year eligibility was determined based on PFS claims from CY 2009.

Q11. What if I have changed Medicare claims processing contractors in the past two years?

A11. Medicare combines claims data for each NPI across all contractors and sites of services (for example, CAH and office) in the development of the national PCIP eligibility file. Each claims processing contractor handling claims in the PCIP payment year for an eligible NPI will make PCIP payments based on the eligible primary care services processed by that contractor and attributed to the eligible NPI in the PCIP payment year.

Q12. Whom may I contact if I have questions regarding my PCIP eligibility status?

A12. If you have questions regarding PCIP eligibility, you may contact your Medicare claims processing contractor contact center support. They will be able to confirm your primary Medicare specialty designation and your percentage of primary care

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services in the claims year used for eligibility determination (for example, CY 2009 for the CY 2011 PCIP payment year). You may contact your carrier or MAC at their toll-free number, which may be found at

<http://www.cms.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.

Q13. Do I need to identify PCIP participation on submitted claims?

A13. No, services eligible for PCIP payment are identified based on the qualifying physician's or NPP's NPI on the claim and the CPT codes for eligible primary care services.

Q14. What if I am part of a physician group?

A14. If you are part of physician group, you are still eligible for primary care incentive payments if you qualify based on your own specialty and primary care percentage. The rendering eligible primary care physician's or NPP's NPI and the primary care services on the claim identify the services as eligible for PCIP payment.

Q15. What if I am a qualifying physician or NPP who has reassigned my Medicare billing rights to a Critical Access Hospital (CAH)?

A15. Primary care incentive payments will be made to CAHs of behalf of qualifying primary care physicians and NPPs. The rendering physician or NPP is identified on the CAH claim by the NPI in the "other provider" field and the eligible primary care services are identified by the CPT codes.

Q16. How often will PCIP payments be made?

A16. Primary care incentive payments will be made quarterly.

Q17. Will this incentive payment be coordinated with other bonus payments?

A17. Yes, PCIP payment will be made in addition to Medicare payment under other bonus programs such as the Medicare health professional shortage area (HPSA) physician bonus program. Incentive payments will be made with a "Special Incentive Remittance" so that eligible physicians and NPPs may identify which incentives were paid for specific services furnished.

Q18. Will I receive a written notice from Medicare if I become eligible for the PCIP payment in future payment years?

A18. No, each PCIP payment year Medicare will provide a national PCIP eligibility file for contractors to post to their websites. Physicians and NPPs will continue to confirm PCIP eligibility for each payment year via this data file.

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Q19. Will I receive written notice from Medicare if I become ineligible for the PCIP payment in future PCIP payment years?

Q19. No, if you become ineligible for future PCIP payment years, you will not be contacted by Medicare.

Q20. What if I have other questions regarding my PCIP eligibility status?

A20. Physicians and NPPs should contact their claims processing contractor with any questions regarding their eligibility for the PCIP.

Additional Information

MLN Matters® article MM7060 provides more detail on implementation of Section 5501(a) of The Affordable Care Act, which provides for the incentive payment for primary care services furnished on or after January 1, 2011 and before January 1, 2016, by a primary care physician or NPP. You may review this article, "Incentive Payment Program for Primary Care Services, Section 5501(a) of The Affordable Care Act," available at

<http://www.cms.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM7060.pdf> on the CMS website.

Article MM7267 explains that (effective July 1, 2011), the PCIP is amended to include the participation of certain newly enrolled Medicare primary care physicians and NPPs who do not have a prior 2 year claims history with which to determine eligibility. You may review this article, "Primary Care Incentive Payment Program (PCIP) Eligibility for New Providers Enrolled in Medicare," available at

<http://www.cms.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM7267.pdf> on the CMS website.

Article MM7115 explains that PCIP payments may be made to certain Critical Access Hospitals. This article, "Incentive Payment Program for Primary Care Services, Section 5501(a) of The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Payment to a Critical Access Hospital (CAH) Paid Under the Optional Method," is available at <http://www.cms.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM7115.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your carrier or A/B MAC at their toll-free number, which may be found at

<http://www.cms.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.

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