



American Academy of
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

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Primary Care Incentive Payment Program

Section 5501(a) of The Affordable Care Act 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 practitioner.

Physician assistants for whom primary care services accounted for at least **60 percent** of the allowed charges under the Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) for the practitioner in a prior period as determined appropriate by the Secretary of Health and Human services are eligible for the incentive payments. The incentive payment will be paid on a monthly or quarterly basis in an amount equal to 10 percent of the payment amount for such services under Part B. For details, *including eligible codes*, Medicare has published an informative article, [Incentive Payment Program for Primary Care Services, Section 5501\(a\) of The Affordable Care Act](#).

Two notable points for Physician Assistants:

- In order to be eligible for the PCIP, Physician Assistants, Clinical Nurse Specialists, and Nurse Practitioners must be billing for their services under their own NPI and not furnishing services incident to physicians' services.
- Regardless of the specialty area in which they may be practicing, these specific non-physician practitioners are eligible for the PCIP based on their profession and historical percentage of allowed charges as primary care services that equals or exceeds the 60 percent threshold.

Will You Be Receiving a Payment in 2011?

Practitioners may go to their Medicare Administrative Contractor/Carrier website to see if they will be receiving an incentive payment. Search for "List of the Primary Care Practitioners Eligible for Primary Care Incentives". You will either be directed to a zip file or a Search box to enter your NPI.

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