

Advisory Bulletin



Important Industry Information for our Valued Customers

Ambulance Bonus Payments Extended

Congress passed the "Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015," extending the Medicare ground ambulance bonus payments until **December 31, 2017**.

Until December 31, 2017, the Medicare fee schedule amount for ground ambulance services will continue to be increased by:

- **3%** for transports originating in **rural** areas;
- **2%** for transports originating in **urban** areas; and
- **22.6%** for transports originating in **super-rural** areas.

Medicare contractors have been holding claims for dates of service (DOS) on or after April 1, 2015, to eliminate the need to reprocess claims. MACs have been instructed to implement the bonuses immediately. However, CMS cautioned that a small number of claims may be processed without the bonus payments. For these claims, CMS stated that the MACs will automatically reprocess the claims at the updated payment rate and no further action is necessary from providers who have already submitted claims. To sum this up, most of your claims for DOS on or after April 1, 2015, should be processed with the bonuses and for those claims that are not, your MAC should automatically reprocess them.