



Providing Ambulance Billing Service to New England Since 1984

NEWSLETTER

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August 2009



REPORTING FRACTIONAL MILEAGE REQUIRED STARTING EFFECTIVE 1/1/2010

In a transmittal dated July 31, CMS has stated it wants mileage to be billed with tenths of a mile. "Effective for claims with dates of service on and after January 1, 2010, ambulance suppliers must report fractional mileage units rounded to the nearest tenth of a mile for all claims for mileage totaling up to, but not including, 100 covered miles. Suppliers must submit fractional mileage using a decimal in the appropriate place (e.g., 99.9). Contractors shall truncate mileage units with fractional amounts reported to greater than one decimal place; e.g., 99.99 will become 99.9 after truncating the hundredths place."..For clients submitting incident reports on paper, please instruct crew members to document mileage (from point of pick to destination) to the nearest 10th of a mile per the instructions above. For clients using electronic PCR's, please insure your software is updated to accept mileage in 10^{ths} and staff is trained to enter mileage accordingly. The following is a link to view the complete Medicare transmittal:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R1787CP.pdf>

This newsletter is not intended as legal advice. Consult an attorney for specific legal advice concerning your situation.

NO CHANGE IN AMBULANCE AIF FOR 2010

The Ambulance Inflation Factor (AIF) for 2010 will be **zero** percent. The Medicare inflation adjustment for ambulance services is based on the change in the Consumer Price Index (Urban) from June to June. The Bureau of Labor Statistics recently updated their data for CPI-Urban for June 2009. The CPI-Urban actually when down. Therefore, there will be no increase in the Ambulance Increase Factor. If there is no legislation that goes into effect on January 1, 2010, the Medicare rates for ambulance will be affected as follows:

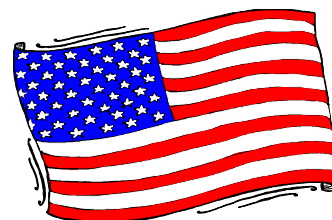
- No inflation update(as noted above)
- Loss of temporary adjustment of 2% (urban) and 3% (rural).
- Loss of 22.6% temp adjustment for the super rural base rate

January 1, 2010 also marks the date ambulance services will be fully on the national fee schedule, as the (higher in New England) regional fee schedules will be phased out.

Combined, these represent a potential net reduction in the Medicare fee schedule in 2010 vs 2009. The true change won't be known until rates are published in December 2009.



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