

## **FACT SHEET**

### **FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER**

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Section 4161 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 amended §1861(aa) of the Social Security Act to establish Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) as entities that provide a new Medicare benefit effective October 1, 1991. Section 410 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 clarifies that certain professional services furnished on or after January 1, 2005 by physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical psychologists who are affiliated with FQHCs are excluded from the Skilled Nursing Facility Prospective Payment System, in the same manner as such services would be excluded if provided by individuals not affiliated with FQHCs.

An entity may qualify as an FQHC if it is:

- ✚ Receiving a grant under §330 of the PHS Act;
- ✚ Receiving funding from such grant under a contract with the recipient of a grant and meets the requirements to receive a grant under §330 of the PHS Act;
- ✚ Determined by the Secretary of DHHS to meet the requirements for receiving such a grant (look-alike) based on the recommendation of the Health Resources and Services Administration; or
- ✚ An outpatient health program or facility operated by a tribe or tribal organization under the Indian Self-Determination Act or by an urban Indian organization receiving funds under Title V of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act as of October 1, 1991.

Payments are made directly to the FQHC for covered services furnished to Medicare beneficiaries. Services are covered when furnished to a patient at the clinic or center, patient's place of residence, or elsewhere (e.g., at the scene of an accident). A FQHC provides the following services:

- ✚ Physicians' services;
- ✚ Services and supplies incident to the services of physicians;
- ✚ Services of nurse practitioners, physician assistants, certified nurse midwives, clinical psychologists, and clinical social workers;
- ✚ Services and supplies incident to the services of nurse practitioners, physician assistants, certified nurse midwives, clinical psychologists, and clinical social workers;
- ✚ Visiting nurse services to the homebound;
- ✚ Services of registered dietitians or nutritional professionals for diabetes training services and medical nutrition therapy; and
- ✚ Otherwise covered drugs that are furnished by, and incident to, services of physicians and nonphysician practitioners of the FQHC.

FQHCs also provide preventive primary health services when furnished by or under the direct supervision of a physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, certified nurse midwife, clinical psychologist, or clinical social worker. Preventive primary health services must be furnished by a member of the center's healthcare staff who is an employee of the center or by a physician under arrangement with the center. The following preventive primary health services are covered when provided by FQHCs to Medicare beneficiaries:

- ✚ Medical social services;
- ✚ Nutritional assessment and referral;
- ✚ Preventive health education;
- ✚ Children's eye and ear examinations;
- ✚ Prenatal and post-partum care;
- ✚ Prenatal services;
- ✚ Well child care, including periodic screening;
- ✚ Immunizations, including tetanus-diphtheria booster and influenza vaccine;
- ✚ Voluntary family planning services;
- ✚ Taking patient history;
- ✚ Blood pressure measurement;
- ✚ Weight measurement;
- ✚ Physical examination targeted to risk;
- ✚ Visual acuity screening;
- ✚ Hearing screening;
- ✚ Cholesterol screening;
- ✚ Stool testing for occult blood;
- ✚ Dipstick urinalysis;
- ✚ Risk assessment and initial counseling regarding risks; and
- ✚ For women only:
  - ✚ Clinical breast examination
  - ✚ Referral for mammography
  - ✚ Thyroid function test

FQHC preventive primary services that are not covered include:

- ✚ Group or mass information programs, health education classes, or group education activities including media productions and publications;
- ✚ Eyeglasses, hearing aids, and preventive dental services;
- ✚ Certain laboratory services;
- ✚ Durable medical equipment (whether rented or sold) including crutches, hospital beds, and wheelchairs used in the patient's place of residence;
- ✚ Ambulance services;
- ✚ Technical components of diagnostic tests such as x-rays and EKGs;
- ✚ The technical component of the following preventive services:
  - ✚ Screening pap smears and screening pelvic examinations
  - ✚ Prostate cancer screening

- ✚ Diabetes outpatient self-management training
  - ✚ Colorectal cancer screening tests
  - ✚ Screening mammography
  - ✚ Bone mass measurements
  - ✚ Glaucoma screening
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- ✚ Prosthetic devices (other than dental) that replace all or part of an internal body organ including colostomy bags, supplies directly related to colostomy care, and the replacement of such devices; and
  - ✚ Leg, arm, back, and neck braces and artificial legs, arms, and eyes including replacements (if required because of a change in the patient's physical condition)

### **Helpful Rural Health Resources**

Administration on Aging

<http://www.aoa.gov>

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

<http://www.ahrq.gov>

Health Resources and Services Administration

<http://www.hrsa.gov>

Indian Health Service

<http://www.ihs.gov>

National Association of Community Health Centers

<http://www.nachc.org>

National Association of Rural Health Clinics

<http://www.narhc.org>

National Rural Health Association

<http://www.nrharural.org>

United States Department of Agriculture

<http://www.usda.gov>

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