
Program Memorandum

Carriers

Department of Health and
Human Services (DHHS)
HEALTH CARE FINANCING
ADMINISTRATION (HCFA)

Transmittal B-00-11

Date: MARCH 2000

CHANGE REQUEST 1107

SUBJECT: Paramedic Intercept -- New Definition for Rural

The Medicare, Medicaid, and the State Childrens' Health Insurance Program Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 1999, provides a new definition for the term "rural" in the context of the Medicare coverage provision for paramedic intercept services. This new definition should be used for claims with service dates after January 1, 2000.

The new definition is as follows: "An area shall be treated as a rural area if it is designated as a rural area by any law or regulation of the State or if it is located in a rural census tract of a metropolitan statistical area (as determined under the most recent Goldsmith modification, originally published in the *Federal Register* on February 27, 1992 (57 Fed. Reg. 6725))."

This definition changes the existing definition and coverage. You should include this information in your next scheduled newsletter. You should also make the ambulance community aware of this change as soon as possible.

The *effective date* for this Program Memorandum (PM) is January 1, 2000.

The *implementation date* for this PM is March 1, 2000.

These instructions should be implemented within your current operating budget.

This PM may be discarded after January 1, 2001.

If you have any questions, contact Glenn McGuirk at 410-786-5723.

