

Related Change Request (CR) #: 3228

Medlearn Matters Number: MM3228

Related CR Release Date: August 27, 2004

Related CR Transmittal #: 285

Effective Date: January 1, 2005

Implementation Date: January 3, 2005

MMA-Addition of Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, and Clinical Nurse Specialists as Emergency On-Call Providers for Critical Access Hospitals

Provider Types Affected

Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs)

Provider Action Needed

Be aware of the changes, introduced by Section 405 of the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA), that allow CAHs to include physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists as CAH emergency room on-call providers, effective with dates of service on or after January 1, 2005.

Background

Section 405 of the MMA introduces the following changes for CAHs beginning with cost reporting periods that start on or after January 1, 2005:

- CAHs may include physician assistants, nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists as CAH emergency room on-call providers.
- CAHs may include amounts for reasonable compensation and related costs of these non-physician practitioners who are on call, and payment will be made via the cost report settlement process.
- Non-physician practitioners who are on call do not have to be present on the premises of the CAH involved.
- Non-physicians practitioners who are on call cannot be furnishing physician services at another site while on call.
- Non-physician practitioners who are on call cannot be on call at any other provider or facility while on call.

The Medicare Claims Processing Manual is being revised as a result of the Change Request (CR3228), on which this article is based. Section 30.1.3 of Chapter 3 of that manual is revised and CAHs should note that the revision requires that, for the costs associated with these non-physician practitioners to be

Disclaimer

Medlearn Matters articles are prepared as a service to the public and are not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. Medlearn Matters articles may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations, and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.

allowable, the costs must be incurred under a written contract that requires the on-call provider to come to the CAH when the provider's presence is medically required.

Additional Information

To view the entire instruction issued to your intermediary, go to:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/transmittals/comm_date_dsc.asp

Once at that site, look for CR3228 in the CR NUM column on the right and click on the file for that CR.

If you have any questions, please contact your Medicare fiscal intermediary at their toll free number, which may be found at:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/tollnums.asp> .

Disclaimer

Medlearn Matters articles are prepared as a service to the public and are not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. Medlearn Matters articles may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations, and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.