



## Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) Bonus Payments for All Mental Health Specialties

MLN Matters Number: MM11327

Related Change Request (CR) Number: 11327

Related CR Release Date: November 1, 2019

Effective Date: February 4, 2020

Related CR Transmittal Number: R4431CP

Implementation Date: For claims processed on or after February 4, 2020

### PROVIDER TYPE AFFECTED

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This MLN Matters® Article is for physicians and other providers submitting claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for mental health services for Medicare beneficiaries.

### PROVIDER ACTION NEEDED

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CR11327 informs MACs to update their system to make all psychiatric specialties eligible to receive the mental health bonus. Currently, the claims manual indicates that Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) bonus payments for mental health services, only specialty 26 is set up to receive the bonus. Make sure that your billing staffs are aware of these changes.

### BACKGROUND

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The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will make HPSA bonus payments for all mental health specialties. Currently, the claims manual indicates that for mental health HPSA bonus payments, only specialty 26 is set up to receive the bonus. Although specialty 26 is correctly eligible to receive the bonus, mental health specialties 27, 86, and any of the future psychiatry provider specialties are also bonus payment eligible when services are rendered in a mental health HPSA. Per CR11327, CMS instructs the MACs to update their systems and allow all the physician psychiatric specialties, beginning with claims processed on or after 90 days after issuance of CR11327 to receive the HPSA bonus payment.

MACs will take action to pay the HPSA bonus for appropriate claims from all mental health specialties for claims processed on or after 90 days after issuance of CR11327. MACs will also apply the bonus payments for any future physician psychiatry specialty codes.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The official instruction, CR11327, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2019Downloads/R4431CP.pdf>.

If you have questions, your MACs may have more information. Find their website at <http://go.cms.gov/MAC-website-list>.

## DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date of Change	Description
November 1, 2019	Initial article released.

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