



150 State Street, Suite 301 Albany, New York 12207-1698 Telephone (518) 449-2707 Fax (518) 455-8908 Web [www.nyahsa.org](http://www.nyahsa.org)

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** RHCF and Community Services Members

**FROM:** Patrick Cucinelli, Senior Financial Policy Analyst

**DATE:** December 14, 2009

**SUBJECT:** **Important Medicare Reminders**

**ROUTE TO:** Administrator, CFO, Billing Director

---

ABSTRACT: NYAHS reminds members regarding year-end Medicare issues.

### MPFS

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has released the final rule on the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS), which establishes the payment rates for Part B services. The final rule contains the anticipated 21.2 percent average reduction in most rates. Congress is currently debating action that would override this large negative adjustment. The final rule can be viewed at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-26502.htm>.

The expectation is that Congress will act to override the large reduction in rates. As in the past couple of years, the anticipated Congressional action may not occur until after the first of the year. NYAHS is holding off on issuing our analysis of the rates at this time in anticipation of a reversal of the current situation. Rates containing the negative adjustment are currently posted on the National Government Services Web site (<http://www.adminastar.com/>) under *Part B/New York* providers and then click on *Fee Schedules*. NYAHS cautions, however, that these rates are likely to change based upon all indications coming out of Washington. AAHS is holding off posting their calculation tool pending anticipated action by Congress.

Again, as in the past couple of years, the general recommendation seems to be to hold off submitting Part B claims until the rate issue is resolved. This will depend in large measure on how the debate in Washington continues to develop in the next few weeks. NYAHS and AAHS are closely monitoring the situation and will keep members informed.

## Therapy Caps Exception Process

Likewise, we are waiting for final Congressional action on renewing the therapy caps exception process. Effective January 1, 2010, the Medicare Part B therapy cap limit for Occupational Therapy alone and Physical/Speech Therapy combined is \$1,860. The therapy caps exception process is now set to expire on December 31, 2009. However, there is a provision in the Affordable Health Care for America Act (H.R. 3962), which passed in the House on November 7, 2009, to extend the current exceptions process for Medicare Part B therapy caps through December 31, 2011. In the past, Congress has renewed the exceptions process after the first of the year and made it retroactive. Therefore, it is critical that therapists and clinical staff continue to document for medical necessity and support the diagnosis code in anticipation of a renewal of the exception process.

## PS&R Reports

NYAHSA had previously advised members that the redesigned Provider Statistical and Reimbursement report (PS&R) system will be used for any fiscal year ending on or after January 31, 2009. The fiscal intermediary is no longer required to send PS&R data to providers. Providers will now request their PS&R reports on-line. Providers must register in IACS (Individuals Authorized Access to the CMS Computer Services) to gain access to the redesigned PS&R. There is generally a delay between registering and being able to download a report, so providers should begin the registration process now to avoid delays in processing year-end reports.

For more information about the redesigned PS&R and the enrollment process and IACS please refer to the CMS Website <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PSRR>. CMS offers IACS support by calling 866-484-8049 or e-mailing [EUSupport@cgi.com](mailto:EUSupport@cgi.com).

To register to receive your PS&R please go to <http://www.ngsmedicare.com/> and log in as “Part A/New York”, then go to “Review Process” along the top menu bar, and then click on “Audit and Reimbursement” and this should bring you to a page with the PS&R feature.

Please contact me with any questions at [pcucinelli@nyahsa.org](mailto:pcucinelli@nyahsa.org) or call 518-449-2707 ext. 145.