

February 14, 2014

2013 Primary Care Physician Rate Increase FAQ

In accordance with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), certain physicians practicing primary care are eligible to receive increased Medicaid payments for primary care services provided to Medicaid eligible individuals. The federal government will fully finance the difference between the state Medicaid payment rate and the applicable Medicare rate during Calendar Years 2013 and 2014.

Am I eligible for the rate increase?

You are eligible if you meet one of the following criteria:

- 1. You are board-certified in at least one of the following qualifying specialties or subspecialties:*
 - A specialty in pediatric medicine*
 - A specialty in family medicine*
 - A specialty in internal medicine*
 - A subspecialty of pediatric, family, or internal medicine recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties, the American Board of Physician Specialties, or the American Osteopathic Association*
- 2. You are board-certified in a non-qualifying specialty, but you provide qualifying primary care services in the community. For example, you are board-certified in surgery or dermatology but you practice in the community as a family doctor.*
- 3. You are not board-certified, but at least 60% of the codes for which you received Medicaid payment in Calendar Year 2012 or Calendar Year 2013 were for qualifying Evaluation and Management (E/M) or vaccine administration services.*

You must self-attest that you meet at least one of these criteria. However, you must not self-attest to eligibility for higher payment if you do not actually practice in one of the listed primary care specialties or subspecialties. For more information, please visit <http://www.medicaid.gov/State-Resource-Center/Frequently-Asked-Questions/CMCS-Ask-Questions.html>.

Do primary care services delivered by non-physician practitioners incident to a physician service qualify for the enhanced payment?

Yes, but in order to ensure that eligible physicians receive the enhanced payment for these services, the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) will require that these services be billed under the supervising physician's Medicaid provider enrollment number appended with the appropriate non-physician modifier. Services billed under a non-physician Medicaid provider enrollment number will not be eligible for the enhanced payment. Independently practicing non-physician providers are not eligible for the enhanced payment.

Please Note: *On a January 23 conference call with state Medicaid entities, CMS clarified that this payment is intended for physicians only and that it is NOT intended for independently practicing non-physician providers (advanced practice nurses and physician assistants).*

I am a family physician who is board certified by the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) but I do not have a certification number. The MITS online application asks for one. How do I attest that I am board certified?

Physicians who are board certified by ABFM and do not have a board certification number should enter “not applicable” in the board certification number field.

When will the rate increase be in effect?

The ACA mandates that states pay the rate increase for qualifying services provided beginning January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2014.

What if I contract with fee-for-service Medicaid - when will I begin receiving the enhanced payments?

Effective on July 1, 2013, physicians who are approved by ODM can expect to see increased payments for primary care services provided to Medicaid fee-for-service individuals. CMS has approved Ohio's State Plan Amendment (SPA) to implement the primary care rate increase. Claim adjustments for dates of service between January 1, 2013 and June 30, 2013 have started. Eligible providers will receive the first payment adjustment on February 26th 2014 for January 2013 claims. ODM will receive the next batch of adjustments on March 3rd 2014. Providers will receive this payment adjustment on March 19th 2014. This process will continue until all adjustments are completed. ODM is anticipating all of these adjustments will be completed by June 30th 2014. ODM is still working on a solution for the July claims that providers did not receive the enhanced payments. ODM anticipates these adjustments will be completed by June 30th 2014 as well. Qualified physicians approved by ODM who contract with a Managed Care Plan (MCP) will receive the enhanced payment directly from the MCP. These payments may be made retrospectively.

What if I contract with a Managed Care Plan – when will I begin receiving the enhanced payments?

Managed Care Plans (MCPs) are obligated to begin paying the PCP enhanced payments to physicians who are approved by ODM once MCPs receive the PCP enhanced payment from ODM which is anticipated to be fall 2013. Once MCP enhanced payments to eligible providers begin, they must be made at least quarterly. MCPs have the discretion to make payments to eligible providers more frequently but not less frequently. For further details please contact MCPs directly.

What do I have to do to apply to receive the enhanced payments?

Physicians **MUST REQUEST** the reimbursement by self-attesting that they are an eligible provider by applying through the MITS portal on Ohio Medicaid's website. In order to register, applying physicians **MUST** have a current MITS account with an active login and PIN. Providers can apply beginning on January 1, 2013.

Physicians can access the MITS portal here:

<https://www.ohmits.com/prosecure/authtam/login?HOSTNAME=portal.ohmits.com>

Physicians who do not have a MITS account can sign up for one at:

<https://portal.ohmits.com/public/Providers/tabid/43/Default.aspx>

If additional assistance is needed regarding signing up for a MITS account, please call the **Medicaid Provider Call Center at 1-800-686-1516 (Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)**.

When will I know if I'm approved for the increase?

Verification of attestation began on June 26th. On July 1, 2013 you will then receive an email stating whether you have been approved or denied for the enhanced payment. An updated approved provider list will be posted to our website by February 17th 2014.

What is the deadline to self-attest in order to receive the enhanced payments?

For physicians who self-attest from January 1, 2013 through May 1, 2013, the effective date for the enhanced payment, if approved, will be January 1, 2013. For approved self-attestations submitted **after August 16, 2013** or later, the effective date of the enhanced payment will be the date of self-attestation.

What if I contract with a Managed Care Plan – how do I apply and who will pay me?

Providers must still apply to receive the enhanced payment through the MITS portal by self-attesting that they are an eligible primary care provider. Once ODM verifies that a provider is eligible, the MCP will receive notification of a provider's eligibility and the effective date of eligibility. The MCP will pay the provider the enhanced payment directly.