

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



NEW product from the Medicare Learning Network® (MLN)

- [“Complying With Medical Record Documentation Requirements”](#) Fact Sheet, ICN 909160, Downloadable

MLN Matters® Number: MM9081

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 9081

Related CR Release Date: January 16, 2015

Effective Date: January 1, 2015

Related CR Transmittal #: R3166CP

Implementation Date: January 5, 2015

## Emergency Update to the Calendar Year (CY) 2015 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Database (MPFSDB)

### Provider Types Affected

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This MLN Matters® Article is intended for physicians, providers, and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

### Provider Action Needed

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This article is based on Change Request (CR) 9081, to announce an emergency update to payment files issued to contractors based on the CY 2015 MPFS Final Rule. CR9081 amends those payment files, including an updated conversion factor of \$35.7547 for services furnished between January 1, 2015, and March 31, 2015, consistent with the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 that provides for a zero percent update from CY 2014 rates. Make sure that your billing staffs are aware of these changes.

#### Disclaimer

This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article 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. CPT only copyright 2013 American Medical Association.

## Background

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Payment files were issued to contractors based upon the CY 2015 MPFS Final Rule, displayed on October 31, 2014 (and published in the Federal Register on November 13, 2014). CR9081 amends those payment files in order to correct technical errors to the MPFS update files, including an updated conversion factor of \$35.7547 for services furnished between January 1, 2015, and March 31, 2015, consistent with the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 that provides for a zero percent update from the CY 2014 rate.

In preparing the CY 2015 final rates, errors were made in work, practice expense and malpractice RVUs. In correcting these errors and making adjustments to reflect the policies in the CY 2015 final rule with comment period, relativity adjustments were required across the fee schedule, and the conversion factor was adjusted from that published in the final rule. The amended payment files reflect all these changes and a conversion factor of \$35.7547 for services furnished on or after January 1, 2015, and on or before March 31, 2015.

Under current law, a new conversion factor will be required for services furnished on or after April 1, 2015. These files will be provided with the April quarterly update.

## Additional Information

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The official instruction, CR9081, issued to your MAC regarding this change, is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R3166CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your MAC at their toll-free number. That number is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Net-work-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/index.html> under - How Does It Work.

**Seasonal Flu Vaccinations** - Generally, Medicare Part B covers one flu vaccination and its administration per flu season for beneficiaries without co-pay or deductible. Now is the perfect time to vaccinate beneficiaries. Health care providers are encouraged to get a flu vaccine to help protect themselves from the flu and to keep from spreading it to their family, co-workers, and patients. Note: The flu vaccine is not a Part D-covered drug. For more information on coverage and billing of the influenza vaccine and its administration, please visit [MLN Matters® Article #MM8890](#), “Influenza Vaccine Payment Allowances - Annual Update for 2014-2015 Season” and [MLN Matters® Article #SE1431](#), “2014-2015 Influenza (Flu) Resources for Health Care Professionals.”

While some providers may offer flu vaccines, those that don't can help their patients locate flu vaccines within their local community. The [HealthMap Vaccine Finder](#) is a free online service where users can search for locations offering flu and other adult vaccines. If you provide vaccination services and would like to be included in the HealthMap Vaccine Finder database, [register](#) for an account to submit your information in the database. Also, visit the CDC [Influenza \(Flu\)](#) web page for the latest information on flu including the CDC 2014-2015 recommendations for the prevention and control of influenza.

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