



## Frequently Asked Questions Medicaid Primary Care Fee Increase

February 21, 2013

**What is the Medicaid Primary Care Fee Increase?** Section 1202 of the Affordable Care Act directs Medicaid agencies to pay primary care providers Medicare rates for certain services, beginning in January 2013. In most cases, this will result in an increase in payments for these services. This provision is intended to expand access to primary care services in the Medicaid program in anticipation of Medicaid expansion to new populations in 2014.

**Who is eligible to receive the Primary Care fee increase?** Primary Care providers who practice in family medicine, internal medicine, or pediatrics are eligible.

**Are primary care Nurse Practitioners and Physician's Assistants eligible for the fee increase?** Medicaid services provided by primary care nurse practitioners or physician's assistants may also be eligible. An eligible physician provider must go to the **Rhode Island Attestation Portal** and list all of the nurse practitioners and physician's assistants for whom he or she takes professional responsibility, and who bill under the eligible provider's name.

**What services are eligible for the fee increase?** Evaluation and Management (E and M) services which are covered by Medicaid between 99201 to 99499, and vaccine administration codes 90460, 90461, 90471, 90472, 90473, 90474 will be paid at Medicare rates for services rendered from January 2013 through December 2014.

**Will I receive these increases automatically, or do I need to take some action?** In order to receive the increases, Medicaid must have a self-attestation that a provider is eligible. Eligible providers must:

- Be practicing in an eligible specialty,  
AND EITHER
- Be board certified in Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Pediatrics, or Subspecialties of these recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), American Osteopathic Association (AOA), or the American Board of Physician Specialties (ABPS),  
OR
- Attest to the Medicaid agency that 60% of the total Medicaid claims billed in the year prior to attestation were for the E and M and vaccine codes eligible for the increase.

### How do I attest to my eligibility?

There are three ways to attest to your eligibility:

1. If you practice in one of the eligible specialties and signed a credentialing application with one of the two Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (United Healthcare or Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island), AND you certified on that application that you are board certified in internal medicine, family medicine, or pediatrics by one of the eligible certification boards, Medicaid may have access to that information and may automatically enroll you in the program. To verify that Medicaid received your

credentialing information, you will be able to log on to the **Rhode Island Attestation Portal** and receive confirmation.

2. If you are practicing and are board certified in one of the eligible specialties but did not certify on your credentialing application that you are board certified, or you are not enrolled with one of the Medicaid Managed Care Organizations, you can log on directly to the **Rhode Island Attestation Portal** and attest to your eligibility.
3. If you are practicing Family Medicine, Internal Medicine or Pediatrics but are not board certified, you can log on to the **Rhode Island Attestation Portal** and attest as to your eligibility. You will need to provide verification that 60% of your Medicaid billing in the prior year was for the eligible E and M and vaccine codes.

**Do I need to attest separately with each Managed Care Organization and the Rhode Island Medicaid Agency?** No. The Managed Care Organizations and the Medicaid agency will be sharing eligibility and attestation information. However, if you attest directly on the **Rhode Island Attestation Portal**, you must indicate which Managed Care Organizations you participate with so that Medicaid may share the self-attestation information with them. If you fail to indicate that you participate with a managed care organization, they will not have your attestation information and you will not receive the increase.

**What if my board certification expires during the 2013-2014 time frame?** If you attest that you are board certified in an eligible specialty or sub-specialty, and that certification expires during the program, you must re-attest as to your eligibility. If you are no longer board certified, you must go to the **Rhode Island Attestation Portal** and attest as to your eligibility for the program. If you become ineligible for the program during 2013-2014 and do not inform the Medicaid agency, your increased payments are subject to being recouped.

**When will the Rhode Island Attestation Portal be available?** Medicaid and our MCOs have been working with the federal government to clarify the rules around eligibility, attestation, and implementation of this program. We anticipate that this portal will be available in late March or early April, 2013. We will also be posting the relevant Medicare fee schedules so providers will be able to view the Medicare payment rates.

**Will the fee increases be retroactive to January, 2013?** If Medicaid receives your attestation within 60 days of the Rhode Island Attestation Portal being available, you will receive payments retroactive to January 2013. If you do not provide attestation within 60 days, you will be eligible to receive the fee increase from the date of attestation forward.

**How will I know when the Rhode Island Attestation Portal is available?** The attestation web-site is not yet available. **You do not need to take any action until the attestation site is active.**

**If you have recently sent a letter to Medicaid or an MCO that states you are eligible for the program, that letter will not qualify you for the program.**

You should watch for information about the portal from Neighborhood Health Plan of RI, United Healthcare, and the Rhode Island Medicaid agency. In addition, we are working with the RI Medical Society, primary care societies and physician groups to disseminate information about the program.

**What web-sites should I be watching for further information?**

[www.NHPRI.org](http://www.NHPRI.org)

<http://www.dhs.ri.gov/tabid/907/Default.aspx>

[www.uhccommunityplan.com](http://www.uhccommunityplan.com)