

CMS Manual System	Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)
Pub 100-04 Medicare Claims Processing	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
Transmittal 10396	Date: October 16, 2020
	Change Request 12031

SUBJECT: Ambulance Inflation Factor (AIF) for Calendar Year (CY) 2021 and Productivity Adjustment

I. SUMMARY OF CHANGES: This transmittal manualizes the Ambulance Inflation Factor (AIF) so that Medicare contractors can accurately determine payment amounts for ambulance services.

This recurring update notification applies to publication 100-04, Medicare Claims Processing Manual, chapter 15, section 20.4.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2021

**Unless otherwise specified, the effective date is the date of service.*

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: January 4, 2021

Disclaimer for manual changes only: The revision date and transmittal number apply only to red italicized material. Any other material was previously published and remains unchanged. However, if this revision contains a table of contents, you will receive the new/revised information only, and not the entire table of contents.

II. CHANGES IN MANUAL INSTRUCTIONS: (N/A if manual is not updated)

R=REVISED, N=NEW, D=DELETED-*Only One Per Row.*

R/N/D	CHAPTER / SECTION / SUBSECTION / TITLE
R	15/20.4/Ambulance Inflation Factor (AIF)

III. FUNDING:

For Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs):

The Medicare Administrative Contractor is hereby advised that this constitutes technical direction as defined in your contract. CMS does not construe this as a change to the MAC Statement of Work. The contractor is not obligated to incur costs in excess of the amounts allotted in your contract unless and until specifically authorized by the Contracting Officer. If the contractor considers anything provided, as described above, to be outside the current scope of work, the contractor shall withhold performance on the part(s) in question and immediately notify the Contracting Officer, in writing or by e-mail, and request formal directions regarding continued performance requirements.

IV. ATTACHMENTS:

Recurring Update Notification

Attachment - Recurring Update Notification

Pub. 100-04	Transmittal: 10396	Date: October 16, 2020	Change Request: 12031
--------------------	---------------------------	-------------------------------	------------------------------

SUBJECT: Ambulance Inflation Factor (AIF) for Calendar Year (CY) 2021 and Productivity Adjustment

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2021

**Unless otherwise specified, the effective date is the date of service.*

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: January 4, 2021

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Background: This document furnishes the CY 2021 ambulance inflation factor (AIF) for determining the payment limit for ambulance services required by section 1834(l)(3)(B) of the Social Security Act (the Act), and updates Publication (Pub.) 100-04, Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 15, Section 20.4.

Section 1834(l)(3)(B) of the Act provides the basis for an update to the payment limits for ambulance services that is equal to the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the 12-month period ending with June of the previous year. Section 3401 of the Affordable Care Act amended Section 1834(l)(3) of the Act to apply a productivity adjustment to this update equal to the 10-year moving average of changes in economy-wide private nonfarm business multi-factor productivity beginning January 1, 2011. The resulting update percentage is referred to as the AIF.

B. Policy: This transmittal manualizes the AIF so that Medicare contractors can accurately determine payment amounts for ambulance services.

On March 23, 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Pub. L. 111-148) was enacted. Following the enactment of Pub. L. 111-148, the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Pub. L. 111-152 (enacted on March 30, 2010), amended certain provisions of Pub. L. 111-148. These public laws are collectively known as the Affordable Care Act. Section 3401 of the Affordable Care Act requires that specific Prospective Payment System (PPS) and Fee Schedule (FS) update factors be adjusted by changes in economy-wide productivity. The statute defines the productivity adjustment to be equal to the 10-year moving average of changes in annual economy-wide private nonfarm business Multi-Factor Productivity (MFP) (as projected by the Secretary for the 10-year period ending with the applicable fiscal year, cost reporting period, or other annual period). The MFP for CY 2021 is 0.4 percent and the CPI-U for 2021 is 0.6 percent. According to the Affordable Care Act, the CPI-U is reduced by the MFP, even if this reduction results in a negative AIF update. Therefore, the AIF for CY 2021 is 0.2 percent.

Part B coinsurance and deductible requirements apply to payments under the ambulance fee schedule. The 2021 ambulance fee schedule file is available in November 2020. It may be retrieved at any time and will reside indefinitely for your access. It may be updated with each quarterly Common Working File (CWF) update.

II. BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS TABLE

"Shall" denotes a mandatory requirement, and "should" denotes an optional requirement.

Number	Requirement	Responsibility			
		A/B MAC	D M E	Shared- System Maintainers	Other

		A	B	H H H	M A C	F I S S	M C S	V M S	C W F	
12031.1	Contractors shall use the CY 2021 AIF for determining the payment limit on claims for ambulance services furnished on or after January 1, 2021.	X	X							
12031.2	The 2021 ambulance fee schedule file shall be available in November 2020. The contractors shall process 2021 ambulance claims. The address for the file is as follows: MU00.@AAA2390.AMBFS.FINAL.CY2021.V1113	X	X							VDC
12031.3	Upon successful receipt of each file, the contractor shall send notification of receipt via email to price_file_receipt@cms.hhs.gov, stating the name of the file received and the entity for which it was received (e.g., contractor name and number).	X	X							VDC

III. PROVIDER EDUCATION TABLE

Number	Requirement	Responsibility				
		A/B MAC			D M E	C E D I
		A	B	H H H	M A C	
12031.4	MLN Article: CMS will make available an MLN Matters provider education article that will be marketed through the MLN Connects weekly newsletter shortly after the CR is released. MACs shall follow IOM Pub. No. 100-09 Chapter 6, Section 50.2.4.1, instructions for distributing MLN Connects information to providers, posting the article or a direct link to the article on your website, and including the article or a direct link to the article in your bulletin or newsletter. You may supplement MLN Matters articles with localized information benefiting your provider community in billing and administering the Medicare program correctly. Subscribe to the "MLN Matters" listserv to get article release notifications, or review them in the MLN Connects weekly newsletter.	X	X			

IV. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Section A: Recommendations and supporting information associated with listed requirements: N/A

"Should" denotes a recommendation.

X-Ref Requirement Number	Recommendations or other supporting information:
---------------------------------	---

Section B: All other recommendations and supporting information: N/A

V. CONTACTS

Pre-Implementation Contact(s): Glenn McGuirk, 410-786-5723 or Glenn.McGuirk@cms.hhs.gov , Amy Gruber, 410-786-1542 or Amy.Gruber@cms.hhs.gov

Post-Implementation Contact(s): Contact your Contracting Officer's Representative (COR).

VI. FUNDING

Section A: For Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs):

The Medicare Administrative Contractor is hereby advised that this constitutes technical direction as defined in your contract. CMS does not construe this as a change to the MAC Statement of Work. The contractor is not obligated to incur costs in excess of the amounts allotted in your contract unless and until specifically authorized by the Contracting Officer. If the contractor considers anything provided, as described above, to be outside the current scope of work, the contractor shall withhold performance on the part(s) in question and immediately notify the Contracting Officer, in writing or by e-mail, and request formal directions regarding continued performance requirements.

ATTACHMENTS: 0

20.4 - Ambulance Inflation Factor (AIF)

(Rev.10396, Issued: 10-16-2020, Effective: 01-01-2021, Implementation: 01-04-2021)

Section 1834(l)(3)(B) of the Social Security Act (the Act) provides the basis for an update to the payment limits for ambulance services that is equal to the percentage increase in the consumer price index for all urban consumers (CPI-U) for the 12-month period ending with June of the previous year. Section 3401 of the Affordable Care Act amended Section 1834(l)(3) of the Act to apply a productivity adjustment to this update equal to the 10-year moving average of changes in economy-wide private nonfarm business multi-factor productivity beginning January 1, 2011. The resulting update percentage is referred to as the Ambulance Inflation Factor (AIF). These updated percentages are issued via Recurring Update Notifications.

Part B coinsurance and deductible requirements apply to payments under the ambulance fee schedule. Following is a chart tracking the history of the AIF:

<u>CY</u>	<u>AIF</u>
2003	1.1
2004	2.1
2005	3.3
2006	2.5
2007	4.3
2008	2.7
2009	5.0
2010	0.0
2011	-0.1
2012	2.4
2013	0.8
2014	1.0
2015	1.5
2016	-0.4
2017	0.7
2018	1.1
2019	2.3
2020	0.9
<i>2021</i>	<i>0.2</i>