

## Michigan Department of Community Health

**Bulletin Number:** MSA 12-39

**Distribution:** Practitioners, FQHCs, Outpatient Hospitals, Local Health Departments, Medicaid Health Plans, Rural Health Clinics, Tribal Health Centers

**Issued:** August 31, 2012

**Subject:** Primary Specialty Designation by Physicians

**Effective:** October 1, 2012

**Programs Affected:** Medicaid, Maternity Outpatient Medical Services (MOMS)

### Background

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) is working to implement a provision of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), as included in Section 1202 of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, which provides increased payments for certain Medicaid primary care services. Under this provision, certain physicians who provide eligible primary care services would be paid the Medicare rates in effect in calendar years (CY) 2013 and 2014 (or, if greater, the Medicare rate in effect in 2009) instead of their usual state-established Medicaid rates.

The increased payments will pertain to primary care services delivered by a physician with a specialty designation of family medicine, general internal medicine, or pediatric medicine. The increase will apply to a specific set of services and procedures that Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) designates as “primary care services.”

The regulations further provide that all of the requirements related to the increased payments apply to services reimbursed by Medicaid managed care plans. Currently, state Medicaid programs are working together with CMS to make the increased payments operational. Additional details regarding this initiative and its implementation will be provided in a future bulletin.

### Preliminary Operational Requirements

Beginning October 1, 2012, Medicaid enrolled physicians practicing in primary care should update their specialty designation in the online Community Health Automated Medicaid Processing System (CHAMPS). Physicians are to designate only one primary specialty area of practice. Physicians are also to update any secondary subspecialty designations, as appropriate. Physicians must meet all federal and state requirements for the type of specialty selected. If a physician has an approved specialty or subspecialty certification by a national board recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties or the American Osteopathic Association, this information must also be submitted.

Physicians who practice in primary care should carefully select their primary specialty designation. Michigan Medicaid will be utilizing the physician specialty designations and board certification information for this program initiative, as well as for claims processing purposes to ensure claims are processed and paid correctly.

Physicians who do not have a primary specialty in family medicine, general internal medicine, or pediatric medicine will not be eligible for increased payments under Section 1202 of the ACA for CYs 2013 and 2014. They will be able to update their primary and secondary specialty practice designations when reporting any changes in enrollment information or during any enrollment revalidation efforts.

Provider enrollment procedures and regulations are outlined in the MDCH Medicaid Provider Manual. Additional information regarding provider enrollment is available at [www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders](http://www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders) or by contacting Provider Support at (800) 292-2550.

### **Manual Maintenance**

Retain this bulletin until the information has been incorporated into the Michigan Medicaid Provider Manual.

### **Questions**

Any questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Provider Inquiry, Department of Community Health, P.O. Box 30731, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8231, or e-mailed to [ProviderSupport@michigan.gov](mailto:ProviderSupport@michigan.gov). When you submit an e-mail, be sure to include your name, affiliation, and phone number so you may be contacted if necessary. Providers may phone toll-free 1-800-292-2550.

Approved

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Fitton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Stephen Fitton, Director  
Medical Services Administration