



Sole Community Hospital



A HOSPITAL IS ELIGIBLE TO BE CLASSIFIED AS A SOLE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL (SCH) if it is located more than 35 miles from other like hospitals. A hospital may also be classified as a SCH if it is located in a rural area AND it meets ONE of the following three conditions:

- 1) The hospital is located between 25 and 35 miles from other like hospitals AND meets ONE of the following criteria:
 - No more than 25 percent of residents who become hospital inpatients or no more than 25 percent of the Medicare beneficiaries who become hospital inpatients in the hospital's service area are admitted to other like hospitals located within a 35-mile radius of the hospital or, if larger, within its service area;
 - The hospital has fewer than 50 beds and would meet the 25 percent criterion above were it not for the fact that some beneficiaries or residents were forced to seek specialized care outside of the service area due to the unavailability of necessary specialty services at the hospital; or
 - Other like hospitals are inaccessible for at least 30 days in each of two out of three years because of local topography or prolonged severe weather conditions;
- 2) The hospital is located between 15 and 25 miles from other like hospitals but because



- of local topography or periods of prolonged severe weather conditions, the other like hospitals are inaccessible for at least 30 days in each of two out of three years; or
- 3) Because of distance, posted speed limits, and predictable weather conditions, the travel time between the hospital and the nearest like hospital is at least 45 minutes.

Sole Community Hospital Payments

Payments to SCHs are determined based on whichever of the following yields the greatest aggregate payment for the cost reporting period:

- The Federal rate applicable to the hospital;
- The updated hospital-specific rate based on fiscal year (FY) 1982 costs per discharge;
- The updated hospital-specific rate based on FY 1987 costs per discharge;

- The updated hospital-specific rate based on FY 1996 costs per discharge; or
- The updated hospital-specific rate based on FY 2006 costs per discharge.

To find additional information about SCHs, see Chapter 3 of the **Medicare Claims Processing Manual** (Pub. 100-4) at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Manuals> on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services website.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

American Hospital Association Section for Small or Rural Hospitals

http://www.aha.org/aha/key_issues/rural/index.html

Critical Access Hospital Center

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/center/cah.asp>

Federally Qualified Health Centers Center

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/center/fqhc.asp>

Health Resources and Services Administration

<http://www.hrsa.gov>

Hospital Center

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/center/hospital.asp>

HPSA/PSA (Physician Bonuses)

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/hpsapsaphysicianbonuses/01_overview.asp

Medicare Learning Network

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNGenInfo>

National Association of Community Health Centers

<http://www.nachc.org>

National Association of Rural Health Clinics

<http://www.narhc.org>

National Rural Health Association

<http://www.nrharural.org>

Rural Health Center

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/center/rural.asp>

Rural Assistance Center

<http://www.raconline.org>

Telehealth

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Telehealth>

U.S. Census Bureau

<http://www.Census.gov>

REGIONAL OFFICE RURAL HEALTH COORDINATORS

Below is a list of contact information for CMS Regional Office Rural Health Coordinators who provide technical, policy, and operational assistance on rural health issues.

REGION I – BOSTON

Rick Hoover

E-mail: richard.hoover@cms.hhs.gov

Telephone: (617) 565-1258

States: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont

REGION II – NEW YORK

Miechal Lefkowitz

E-mail: miechal.lefkowitz@cms.hhs.gov

Telephone: (212) 616-2517

States: New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands

REGION III – PHILADELPHIA

Patrick Hamilton

E-mail: patrick.hamilton@cms.hhs.gov

Telephone: (215) 861-4097

States: Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington DC

REGION IV – ATLANTA

Lana Dennis

E-mail: lane.dennis@cms.hhs.gov

Telephone: (404) 562-7379

States: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee

REGION V – CHICAGO

Christine Davidson

E-mail: christine.davidson@cms.hhs.gov

Telephone: (312) 886-3642

States: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin

REGION VI – DALLAS

Becky Peal-Sconce

E-mail: becky.pealsconce@cms.hhs.gov

Telephone: (214) 767-6444

States: Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas

REGION VII – KANSAS CITY

Robert Epps

E-mail: robert.epps@cms.hhs.gov

Telephone: (816) 426-6538

States: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska

REGION VIII – DENVER

Lyla Nichols

E-mail: lyla.nichols@cms.hhs.gov

Telephone: (303) 844-6218

States: Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming

REGION IX – SAN FRANCISCO

Neal Logue

E-mail: neal.logue@cms.hhs.gov

Telephone: (415) 744-3551

States: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa

REGION X – SEATTLE

Alma Hardy

E-mail: alma.hardy@cms.hhs.gov

Telephone: (206) 615-2387

States: Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington

This fact sheet was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This fact sheet 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.

The Medicare Learning Network (MLN) is the brand name for official CMS educational products and information for Medicare fee-for-service providers. For additional information visit the Medicare Learning Network's web page at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNGenInfo/> on the CMS website. April 2009 ICN: 006399