



# Rural Link

Up-to-date information for Rural Health Hospitals

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Email Michele Causley to sign up!  
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## Rural Link Tip

The Final Rule will be issued within the next few months.

Do not delay; prepare your request now to take full advantage of this opportunity.

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## Health Care Reform Additional Reimbursement for Low Medicare Volume Hospitals

CMS recently issued a supplemental proposed rule for FFY 2011 revising the Medicare Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) in order to implement certain provisions contained in the healthcare reform Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010. One of the provisions could potentially benefit a significant number of hospitals.

The proposed rule, when finalized, will implement a **temporary** change for FFYs 2011 and 2012 allowing more hospitals to qualify for the Medicare inpatient low-volume hospital payment adjustment. The adjustment is available to all general acute care, short-term hospitals that meet the revised criteria.

The adjustment is in the form of a percentage add-on payment ranging from an additional 25% to 1.67% per Medicare discharge. The amended criteria requires a hospital to be located more than **15** road miles from another like-hospital and have less than 1,600 **Medicare** discharges (including Medicare Advantage enrollees).

To receive the payment adjustment, a hospital must send a request each year to its FI or MAC and provide sufficient evidence to document that it meets the criteria.

At this time it is unclear whether the payment adjustment will be applied only to the Federal operating payments or will also include hospital specific rates for Sole Community and Medicare Dependent facilities. The Rybar Group has requested clarification on this issue and is waiting for a response, but regardless, all qualifying hospitals should submit a request to take full advantage of potential increased reimbursement.

For all Rural Link subscribers that qualify for the low-volume hospital adjustment, The Rybar Group is offering to prepare and submit a request to the FI or MAC for **FREE**. Letters will be sent to all qualifying hospitals; contact The Rybar Group for more information.

Please call or email Michele Causley if you have any questions.



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