



# 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.

## The Rybar Group

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## Health Care Reform

### Low Volume Hospital Payment FFY 2012 – Additional Reimbursement for Low Medicare Volume Hospitals

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010 contained provisions temporarily amending the low volume hospital payment adjustment criteria, allowing more hospitals to qualify in FYs 2011 and 2012.

The adjustment is in the form of a percentage add-on payment ranging from an additional .02% to 25% 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).

Similar to FY 2011, the recently published FY 2012 IPPS proposed rule includes a list of providers with less than 1,600 Medicare discharges (based on FY 2010 Med PAR data) and the calculated adjustment percentage. Inclusion on the list does not necessarily mean the Hospital qualifies for the adjustment because the mileage criteria must also be met.

To receive the adjustment, a hospital must send a written request **each** year to its FI or MAC and provide documentation that it meets the mileage requirement. For the FY 2011 adjustment, hospitals were required to submit requests by September 1, 2010; it is assumed that the FY 2012 IPPS final rule will include a similar deadline.

Once again, 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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