

## CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS (CAHS)

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AUTHORITY: [32 CFR 199.14\(a\)\(1\)\(ii\)\(D\)](#)

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### I. APPLICABILITY

This policy is mandatory for the reimbursement of services provided either by network or non-network providers. However, alternative network reimbursement methodologies are permitted when approved by the TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) and specifically included in the network provider agreement.

### II. ISSUE

How are CAHS to be reimbursed?

### III. POLICY

A. CAHS are subject to the DRG-based payment system.

1. TMA will maintain the CAH listing on the TMA's web site at <http://www.tricare.mil/hospitalclassification/>, and will update the list on a quarterly basis and will notify the contractors by e-mail when the list is updated.

2. For payment purposes for those facilities that were listed on both the CAH and Sole Community Hospital (SCH) lists prior to June 1, 2006, the contractors shall use the implementation date of June 1, 2006, as the effective date for reimbursing CAHS under the DRG-based payment system. The June 1, 2006, effective date is for admissions on or after June 1, 2006. For admissions prior to June 1, 2006, if a facility was listed on both the CAH and SCH lists, the SCH list took precedence over the CAH list. The contractors shall not initiate recoupment action for any claims paid billed charges where the CAH was also on the SCH list, prior to the June 1, 2006, effective date.

3. The effective date on the CAH list is the date supplied by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) upon which the facility began receiving reimbursement from Medicare as a CAH, however, if a facility was listed on both the CAH and SCH lists prior to June 1, 2006, the effective date for TRICARE DRG reimbursement is June 1, 2006.

**TRICARE REIMBURSEMENT MANUAL 6010.55-M, AUGUST 1, 2002**

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4. After June 1, 2006, if a CAH is added or dropped off of the list from the previous update, the quarterly revision date of the current listing shall be listed as the facility's effective or termination date, respectively.

5. If the contractor receives documentation from a CAH indicating their status is different than what is on the CAH listing on TMA's web site, the contractor shall send the information to TMA, Medical Benefits & Reimbursement Systems (MB&RS) to update the listings on the web

B. CAHs participating in the demonstration in the state of Alaska are exempt from the DRG-based payment system and are subject to the payment rates under the TRICARE Demonstration Project. For information on the demonstration, refer to the TRICARE Operations Manual (TOM), [Chapter 20, Section 9](#).

C. The contractor's shall update their institutional provider files to include CAH's and their Indirect Medical Education (IDME) factors, if applicable, as the CMS Inpatient Provider Specific File used to update the annual DRG Provider File does not contain CAH information.

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