

participate in a meeting. If you do not pass the connection test, perform the suggested actions and run the test again.

## 2. Joining the Meeting

Registrants will receive an e-mail invitation with meeting access information prior to meeting. When the meeting date and time arrive, click on the link or enter the URL into your Web browser. The meeting login screen appears. Select "Enter as a Guest," type in your first and last name, and click "Enter Room." The meeting launches in your browser.

To access the audio portion of the meeting please dial 1-888-469-0694 and enter passcode 1995616. If you should have difficulties accessing the meeting please contact Syreeta Jones via phone at 1-301-577-0244 ext. 4900 or via e-mail at [sjones@blseamon.com](mailto:sjones@blseamon.com).

**Authority:** Sec. 222 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 217a) and sec. 10(a) of Pub. L. 92-463 (5 U.S.C. App. 2, sec. 10(a) and 41 CFR 102-3).

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.733, Medicare—Hospital Insurance Program; and Program No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplementary Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: September 9, 2010.

**Donald M. Berwick,**

*Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.*

[FR Doc. 2010-23312 Filed 9-23-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4120-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS-4143-N]

#### Medicare Program; Medicare Appeals; Adjustment to the Amount in Controversy Threshold Amounts for Calendar Year 2011

**AGENCY:** Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the annual adjustment in the amount in controversy (AIC) threshold amounts for Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) hearings and judicial review under the Medicare appeals process. The adjustment to the AIC threshold amounts will be effective for requests for ALJ hearings and judicial review filed on or after January 1, 2011. The 2011 AIC threshold amounts are \$130 for ALJ hearings and \$1,300 for judicial review.

**DATES:** *Effective Date:* This notice is effective on January 1, 2011.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Liz Hosna ([Katherine.Hosna@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Katherine.Hosna@cms.hhs.gov)), (410) 786-4993.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Background

Section 1869(b)(1)(E) of the Social Security Act (the Act), as amended by section 521 of the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2000 (BIPA), established the AIC threshold amounts for ALJ hearing requests and judicial review at \$100 and \$1,000, respectively, for Medicare Part A and Part B appeals. Section 940 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA), amended section 1869(b)(1)(E) of the Act to require the AIC threshold amounts for ALJ hearings and judicial review to be adjusted annually. The AIC threshold amounts are to be adjusted, as of January 2005, by the percentage increase in the medical care component of the consumer price index for all urban consumers (U.S. city average) for July 2003 to July of the year preceding the year involved and rounded to the nearest multiple of \$10. Section 940(b)(2) of the MMA provided conforming amendments to apply the AIC adjustment requirement to Medicare Part C (Medicare Advantage "MA") appeals and certain health maintenance organization and competitive health plan appeals. Health care prepayment plans are also subject to MA appeals rules, including the AIC adjustment requirement. Section 101 of the MMA provides for the application of the AIC adjustment requirement to Medicare Part D appeals.

##### A. Medicare Part A and Part B Appeals

The statutory formula for the annual adjustment to the AIC threshold amounts for ALJ hearings and judicial review of Medicare Part A and Part B appeals, set forth at section 1869(b)(1)(E) of the Act, is included in the applicable implementing regulations, 42 CFR Part 405, Subpart I, at § 405.1006(b). The regulations require the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (the Secretary) to publish changes to the AIC threshold amounts in the **Federal Register** (§ 405.1006(b)(2)). In order to be entitled to a hearing before an ALJ, a party to a proceeding must meet the AIC requirements at § 405.1006(b). Similarly, a party must meet the AIC requirements at § 405.1006(c) at the time judicial review is requested for the court

to have jurisdiction over the appeal (§ 405.1136(a)).

##### B. Medicare Part C (Medicare Advantage) Appeals

Section 940(b)(2) of the MMA applies the AIC adjustment requirement to Part C (MA) appeals by amending section 1852(g)(5) of the Act. The implementing regulations for Medicare Part C appeals are found at 42 CFR Part 422, Subpart M. Specifically, § 422.600 and § 422.612 discuss the AIC threshold amounts for ALJ hearings and judicial review. Section 422.600 grants any party to the reconsideration, except the MA organization, who is dissatisfied with the reconsideration determination, a right to an ALJ hearing as long as the amount remaining in controversy after reconsideration meets the threshold requirement established annually by the Secretary. Section 422.612 states that any party, including the MA organization, may request judicial review if, in part, the AIC meets the threshold requirement established annually by the Secretary.

##### C. Health Maintenance Organizations, Competitive Medical Plans, and Health Care Prepayment Plans

Section 1876(c)(5)(B) of the Act states that the annual adjustment to the AIC dollar amounts set forth in section 1869(b)(1)(E) of the Act applies to certain beneficiary appeals within the context of health maintenance organizations and competitive medical plans. The applicable implementing regulations for Medicare Part C appeals are set forth in 42 CFR Part 422, Subpart M, and as discussed above, apply to these appeals. The Medicare Part C appeals rules also apply to health care prepayment plan appeals.

##### D. Medicare Part D (Prescription Drug Plan) Appeals

The annually adjusted AIC threshold amounts for ALJ hearings and judicial review that apply to Medicare Parts A, B, and C appeals also apply to Medicare Part D appeals. Section 101 of the MMA added section 1860D-4(h)(1) of the Act regarding Part D appeals. This statutory provision requires a prescription drug plan sponsor to meet the requirements set forth in sections 1852(g)(4) and (g)(5) of the Act, in a similar manner as MA organizations. As noted above, the annually adjusted AIC threshold requirement was added to section 1852(g)(5) of the Act by section 940(b)(2)(A) of the MMA. The implementing regulations for Medicare Part D appeals can be found at 42 CFR Part 423, Subpart M and Subpart U. The regulations impart at § 423.562(c) that,

unless the Part D appeals rules provide otherwise, the Part C appeals rules (including the annually adjusted AIC threshold amount) apply to Part D appeals to the extent they are appropriate. More specifically, § 423.1970 and § 423.1976 of the Part D appeals rules discuss the AIC threshold amounts for ALJ hearings and judicial review. Section 423.1970(a) grants a Part D enrollee, who is dissatisfied with the Independent Review Entity (IRE) reconsideration determination, a right to an ALJ hearing if the amount remaining in controversy after the IRE reconsideration meets the threshold amount established annually by the Secretary. Sections 423.1976(a) and (b) allow a Part D enrollee to request judicial review of an ALJ or MAC decision if, in part, the AIC meets the threshold amount established annually by the Secretary.

**II. Annual AIC Adjustments**

*A. AIC Adjustment Formula and AIC Adjustments*

As previously noted, section 940 of the MMA requires that the AIC threshold amounts be adjusted annually, beginning in January 2005, by the percentage increase in the medical care component of the consumer price index (CPI) for all urban consumers (U.S. city average) for July 2003 to the July of the preceding year involved and rounded to the nearest multiple of \$10.

*B. Calendar Year 2011*

The AIC threshold amount for ALJ hearing requests will remain at \$130 and the AIC threshold amount for judicial review will rise to \$1,300 for the 2011 calendar year. These updated amounts are based on the 30.34 percent increase in the medical care component

of the CPI from July of 2003 to July of 2010. The CPI level was at 297.6 in July of 2003 and rose to 387.898 in July of 2010. This change accounted for the 30.34 percent increase. The AIC threshold amount for ALJ hearing requests changes to \$130.34 based on the 30.34 percent increase. In accordance with section 940 of the MMA, this amount is rounded to the nearest multiple of \$10. Therefore, the 2011 AIC threshold amount for ALJ hearings is \$130. The AIC threshold amount for judicial review changes to \$1,303.42 based on the 30.34 percent increase. This amount was rounded to the nearest multiple of \$10, resulting in a 2011 AIC threshold amount of \$1,300.

*C. Summary Table of Adjustments in the AIC Threshold Amounts*

In Table 1 below, we list the (CY) 2005 through 2011 threshold amounts.

**TABLE 1—AMOUNT-IN-CONTROVERSY THRESHOLD AMOUNTS**

	CY 2005	CY 2006	CY 2007	CY 2008	CY 2009	CY 2010	CY 2011
ALJ Hearing .....	\$100	\$110	\$110	\$120	\$120	\$130	\$130
Judicial Review .....	1,050	1,090	1,130	1,180	1,220	1,260	1,300

\* CY—Calendar Year.

**III. Collection of Information Requirements**

This document does not impose information collection and recordkeeping requirements. Consequently, it need not be reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget under the authority of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 35).

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.778, Medical Assistance Program; No. 93.773 Medicare—Hospital Insurance Program; and No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplementary Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: September 2, 2010.

**Donald M. Berwick,**  
Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

**Subcommittee on Procedures Review, Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (ABRWH), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)**

In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), announces the following meeting of the aforementioned subcommittee:

*Time and Date:* 9 a.m.–5 p.m., October 13, 2010.

*Place:* Cincinnati Airport Marriott, 2395 Progress Drive, Hebron, Kentucky 41018. Telephone (859) 334-4611, Fax (859) 334-4619.

*Status:* Open to the public, but without a public comment period. To access by conference call, dial the following information: (866) 659-0537, Participant Pass Code 9933701.

*Background:* The ABRWH was established under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 to advise the President on a variety of policy and technical functions required to implement and effectively manage the compensation program. Key functions of

the ABRWH include providing advice on the development of probability of causation guidelines that have been promulgated by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as a final rule; advice on methods of dose reconstruction which have also been promulgated by HHS as a final rule; advice on the scientific validity and quality of dose estimation and reconstruction efforts being performed for purposes of the compensation program; and advice on petitions to add classes of workers to the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC).

In December 2000, the President delegated responsibility for funding, staffing, and operating the ABRWH to HHS, which subsequently delegated this authority to CDC. NIOSH implements this responsibility for CDC. The charter was issued on August 3, 2001, renewed at appropriate intervals, and will expire on August 3, 2011.

*Purpose:* The ABRWH is charged with (a) providing advice to the Secretary, HHS, on the development of guidelines under Executive Order 13179; (b) providing advice to the Secretary, HHS, on the scientific validity and quality of dose reconstruction efforts performed for this program; and (c) upon request by the Secretary, HHS, advising the Secretary on whether there is a class of employees at any Department of Energy facility who were exposed to radiation