

Rural Area Flexibility Analysis (RAFA)

1. Types and estimated numbers of rural areas:

All areas, including rural areas that pay workers' compensation claims will be subject to this regulation.

2. Reporting, recordkeeping and other compliance requirements; and professional services

The same compliance and recordkeeping requirements apply to rural areas as metropolitan ones – carriers will need to report certain credits taken for payments to claimants and submit their biannual reports according to the proposal. No special professional services should be required by rural or any other areas.

3. Costs

There are no additional costs expected as a result of this proposal besides minimal administrative ones – the process is already electronic, and the proposed amendments seek to implement the upgrade the eClaims system to the national standards in EDI version 3.1, which should be more efficient and balance any costs the new rules cause.

4. Minimizing Adverse Impact

The proposed regulations were written after a thorough process to upgrade the eClaims system to the national standard EDI system 3.1. These changes provide clarity to avoid confusion and also to reflect updates to the system.

5. Rural area participation

The Board will duly consider all public comments received from rural areas during the public comment period.