

Rural Area Flexibility Analysis (RAFA)

1. Types and estimated numbers of rural areas:

The proposal updates the durable medical equipment (DME) fee schedule. The DME fee schedule must be used for all DME provided to workers' compensation claimants across New York State, including rural areas.

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

The same compliance and recordkeeping requirements apply to rural areas as metropolitan ones, and no special professional services should be required by rural or any other areas. The proposal updates the fee schedule.

3. Costs

There are no additional costs expected as a result of this proposal – the updating of the fee schedule should either be cost-neutral or reduce overall costs by standardizing the fees charged for items covered and should increase clarity and decrease confusion. This should in turn reduce frictional costs associated to fees for DME and unpaid bills for DME should continue to be reduced.

4. Minimizing Adverse Impact

The proposed regulations seek to update the fee schedule – to make the DME fee schedule as accurate as possible and decrease any potential confusion with the current DME fee schedule.

5. Rural area participation

The Board sent an electronic communication describing the proposal to approximately 10,324 subscribers for Board updates (6,364 health care providers and 3,960 employers) on October 25, 2023

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