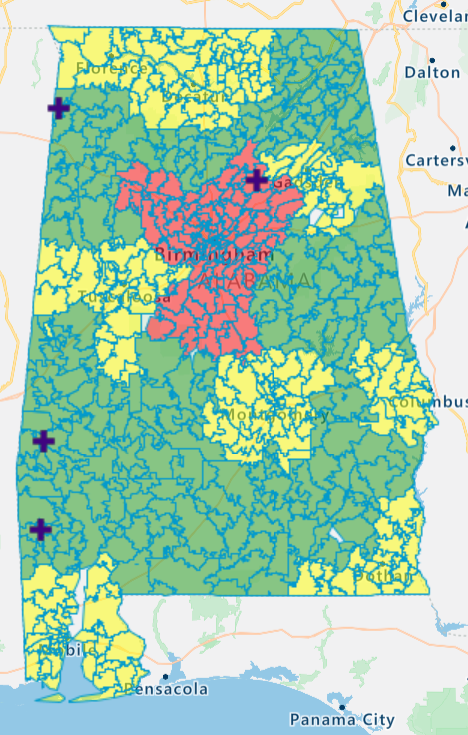
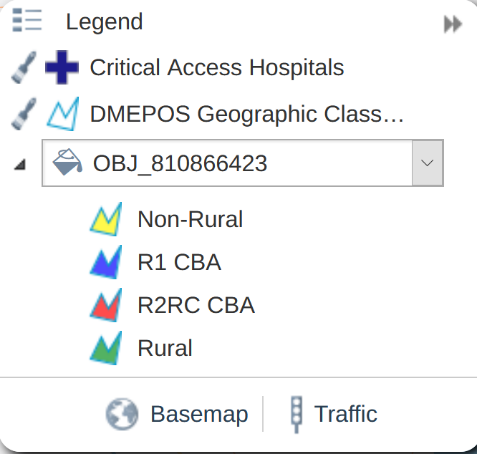
**DMEPOS Geographic Classification**

**Alabama**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) classifies durable medical equipment reimbursement rates based on the physical location where a beneficiary resides. These categories are divided into three categories: Competitive Bidding Areas (CBAs), Non-Rural and Rural. These areas are determined by a Zip Code’s geographic area being within a metropolitan area regardless of distances to other suppliers or proximity to a critical access hospital. (CAH)

As the number of DMEPOS suppliers has been reduced in recent years, it is time CMS changes the outdated method by which DMEPOS areas are classified. While sparsely populated areas have received a temporary, moderate increase in reimbursement, a significant number of patients in non-rural areas have been excluded from the relief.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Classification** | **Population** | **Percentage** |
| Rural | 1,135,428 | 23.2% |
| Non-Rural | 874,905 | 17.8% |
| CBA | 2,892,918 | 59.0% |
| Total | 4,903,251 | 100% |



|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Classification** | **Oxygen concentrator reimbursement rate in 2015** | **Oxygen concentrator reimbursement rate during PHE** | **Percentage change** |
| Rural | $180.92 | $136.22 | -24.7% |
| Non-rural | $180.92 | $103.86 | -42.6% |
| CBA | $180.92 | $86.69 | -52.1% |