

Issue Brief

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KEY POINTS

- Hospice corrections include changes to the labeling of certain tables and payment rate corrections for hospices that do not submit required quality data.
- Skilled nursing corrections are wage index related.

CMS Corrects Final FY 2016 Hospice and SNF Updates

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has issued two correction notices affecting the final rules that update both the hospice payment rates and skilled nursing facilities for fiscal year 2016.

The notices are scheduled for publication in the *Federal Register* on October 5.

A copy of the hospice document is currently available at: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2015-25267.pdf>.

A copy of the SNF document is at: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2015-25268.pdf>.

HOSPICE CHANGES

1. On page 47182, in Table 25—“FY 2016 Hospice Payment Rates For CHC, IRC, and GIP For Hospices That Do Not Submit The Required Quality Data,” for Code 652, in the “Description” column, the figure “38.67” is corrected to read “38.59.”

2. On page 47203, in the third column, in the first full paragraph, first line, the reference to “Table H1” is corrected to read “Table 29.”

3. On page 47205, in the second column, third line, the reference to “Table H2” is corrected to read “Table 30.”

SNF CHANGES

A technical error is necessitated to recalculate the pre-reclassified unadjusted and occupational mix adjusted wage indexes and Geographic Adjustment Factors for three certain core-based statistical areas.

One of these hospitals is geographically located in nonurban Arkansas (State Code 04), two hospitals are geographically located in nonurban Maine (State Code 20), and one urban hospital is located in Maine (CBSA 12620).

Thus, the pre-reclassified unadjusted wage indexes for these three areas were calculated incorrectly. CMS is correcting the wage indexes for these three areas in Table A and Table B on CMS’ website at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/SNFPSP/WageIndex.html>.

Specifically, the wage index value for CBSA 12620 has been corrected from 0.9845 to 0.9980, the wage index value for State Code 04 (Arkansas) has been corrected from 0.7217 to 0.7219, and the wage index value for State Code 20 (Maine) has been corrected from 0.8455 to 0.8477.

continued

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The version of Table A that was initially posted to CMS' web site on July 30, 2015, correctly included all of the final wage index values for all CBSAs in rows 1 through 1238, but also inadvertently included some proposed wage index values, beginning in row 1240 of Table A. Therefore, CMS has eliminated the additional, erroneous values beyond row 1238.

Additionally, Table B posted to CMS' website, which provides the nonurban wage index values by state had Column A mislabeled as "CBSA" while it should have read "State Code" and Column B mislabeled as "Urban Area" while it should have read "Non-urban Area". Therefore, in Table B, the header for Column A has been changed from "CBSA" to "State Code" and the header for Column B has been changed from "Urban Area" to "Non-Urban Area."

*Analysis provided for MHA
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