



Rural Link



Up-to-date information for Rural Health Hospitals

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News Flash – Deadline for Revisions to Wage Index and Occ Mix Data

Your facility has until **December 5th** to submit revisions to your Worksheet S-3 Wage Data and Occupational Mix Data, as published by CMS, along with supporting documentation to your FI/MAC.

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Revisions to Hospital Wage Index and Occupational Mix Data – December 5th Deadline

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released preliminary FY 2009 hospital wage index and 2010 occupational mix data to be used to develop the Fiscal Year 2013 Medicare wage index.

Many State hospital associations have distributed information to assist hospitals with their reviews including comparisons to assigned core-based statistical areas and the United States. These reports are helpful to identify significant variances between data reported by your hospital compared to what was reported by others. Because the wage index and occupational mix will impact reimbursement for hospitals not paid on a hospital specific rate, it is important for hospitals to submit accurate data.

The occupational mix data is even more significant to Sole Community (SCH) and Medicare Dependent (MDH) Hospitals because the results are used as a benchmark for nurse staffing when calculating a Low Volume Adjustment (LVA) payment (based on a more than 5% decline in discharges.) Payments may be reduced significantly if it is determined that a hospital's nurse staffing level is higher than that of its peers based on the occupational mix survey.

Hospitals have until December 5th to submit revisions to the data, along with supporting documentation, to their FI/MAC.

Please call or email Michele Causley if you have any questions.



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We are thankful for our Rural Link subscribers and wish you and yours a Happy Thanksgiving!