

Health Headlines

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CMS Issues Long-Awaited Revised SSI Percentages for 2006-2009--Final Settlements Should Follow

Late on Friday, March 16, 2012, CMS posted to its web site the revised SSI percentages for use in the Medicare DSH formula. These revised numbers still include Medicare Advantage days in both the numerator and denominator which, for the vast majority of hospitals, has the effect of lowering the SSI percentage and hence lowering Medicare DSH payments. With the issuance of these data, the several-years long logjam in cost report settlements should break loose, and we are aware that a number of contractors have informed some providers that final settlements will start coming out in mid-May. Presumably, the revised data also correct errors made by CMS in its prior methodology for matching SSI data with Medicare utilization data, although CMS has not been explicit about this in its posting. The posting of the SSI percentages also opens up the process available to hospitals with other than September 30 fiscal year ends to request a recalculation of their SSI percentages for their own fiscal years. To seek such a recalculation, however, CMS is requiring that hospitals submit new requests even if they have previously requested this data. Links to the SSI percentages and additional information can be found at the following link.

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