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FFY 2010 Wage Index Appeals Due Soon

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Payment Group

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Appeals of the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2010 wage index must be filed at the Provider Reimbursement Review Board (PRRB) soon. If you calculate the due date using the date the wage indices are put on display at the CMS website, then the appeals are due January 27, 2010. It is more likely, however, that the due date would be calculated from publication of the indices in the hard copy publication of the August 27, 2009 Federal Register, which would make the appeal deadline February 23, 2010. If you want to be conservative, file by January 27.

Consider joining with the other providers in your geographic area in a group appeal. If a successful appeal of your hospital's wage or wage-related data would result in an increased wage index for your hospital, it would also result in an increased wage index for the other hospitals in the geographic area that shares your wage index. Likewise, if you know of another hospital in your geographic area that intends to appeal its wage data, you should consider filing an appeal to protect your hospital's right to benefit from any such increase in your area wage index. Only those hospitals that file an appeal preserve the opportunity to gain from any such increase. Including other providers in an appeal with your hospital may also provide an opportunity to share the costs of the appeal, without diminishing any potential return.

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