

floor" under section 4410 of the BBA. We subsequently published correction notices to update the wage index values. The SNF wage index values applicable for services furnished on or after October 1, 2004 through ~~September~~ 30, 2005 are shown in Table 8 (for urban areas) and Table 9 (for rural areas) in the December 30, 2004 correction notice (69 FR 78445).

Deleted: August 31

Acute care hospital inpatient wage index data is also used to establish the wage index adjustment used in the LTCH PPS, IPF PPS, HHA PPS, and IRF PPS. As we discussed in the May 12, 1998 SNF PPS interim final rule (63 FR 26252), as hospitals that are excluded from the IPPS are not required to provide wage-related information on the Medicare cost report, and because we would need to establish instructions for the collection of these SNF data in order to establish a geographic reclassification adjustment under the SNF PPS, the wage adjustment established under the SNF PPS is based on a SNF's actual location without regard to the urban or rural designation of any related or affiliated provider.

In this proposed rule, for the FY 2006 SNF PPS rate year, we propose to use acute care hospital inpatient wage index data generated from cost reporting periods beginning during FY 2002 (without taking into account geographic