



News Flash – The revised *Medicare Disproportionate Share Hospital Fact Sheet* (April 2009), which provides information about methods to qualify for the Medicare Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) adjustment; Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 and Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 provisions that impact Medicare DSHs; number of beds in hospital determination; and Medicare DSH payment adjustment formulas, can be accessed at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/2009_mdsh.pdf on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services website.

MLN Matters® Number: MM6552

Related Change Request (CR) #: 6552

Related CR Release Date: June 19, 2009

Effective Date: June 3, 2009

Related CR Transmittal #: R1758CP

Implementation Date: July 6, 2009

Correction to Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Medicare Severity Long-Term Care Diagnosis-Related Group (MS-LTC-DRG) Weights

Provider Types Affected

This article applies to long term care hospitals (LTCHs) submitting claims to Medicare contractors (Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs) and/or Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries and which are paid under the LTCH prospective payment system (PPS).

Provider Action Needed

Change request (CR) 6552 alerts providers that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will issue a new LTCH PPS Pricer for the remainder of this fiscal year (FY) that contains the revised relative weight table. CMS has instructed Medicare contractors to hold LTCH PPS claims with discharges on or after June 3, 2009 until the updated Pricer is in production. Be sure your billing staff is aware of this update.

Disclaimer

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Background

In an interim final rule with comment period (IFC) published in the Federal Register on June 3, 2009, CMS implemented revised MS-LTC-DRG relative weights for payment under LTCH PPS for federal FY 2009. The FY 2009 MS-LTC-DRG relative weights were revised due to the misapplication of the established budget neutrality methodology. The revised FY 2009 MS-LTC-DRG relative weights presented in Table 11 of that IFC are effective for the remainder of the FY. To review Table 11 go to http://www.cms.gov/LongTermCareHospitalPPS/06_Itcdrg.asp and open the Excel file that is retrieved at that link.

Note: This revision to the FY 2009 MS-LTC-DRG relative weights did not affect the calculation of the geometric mean length of stay and the short-stay outlier (SSO) threshold for FY 2009 that were presented in Table 11 of the FY 2009 IPPS final rule.

Key Points

- The revised LTCH Pricer will be effective for discharges on or after June 3, 2009.
- The specific dates for the remainder of FY 2009 for LTCH PPS discharges are for those occurring on or after June 3, 2009 through September 30, 2009.
- Medicare contractors will release held claims for processing once the LTCH Pricer is in production.

Additional Information

If you have questions, please contact your Medicare FI or A/B MAC at their toll-free number which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.

The official instruction, CR6552, issued to your Medicare FI or A/B MAC regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1758CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

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