

Dated: December 27, 2006.

Michelle Shortt,

*Director, Regulations Development Group,
Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory
Affairs.*

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[Document Identifier: CMS-301]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, HHS.

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Department of Health and Human Services, is publishing the following summary of proposed collections for public comment. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the Agency's function; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

1. *Type of Information Collection Request:* Extension of a currently approved collection; *Title of Information Collection:* Certification of Medicaid Eligibility Control (MEQC) Payment Error Rates and Supporting Regulations at 42 CFR 431.800-431.865; *Use:* Medicaid Eligibility Quality Control (MEQC) is operated by Title XIX agencies to monitor and improve the administration of its Medicaid program. The traditional MEQC program is based on State reviews of Medicaid beneficiaries identified through a statistically reliable statewide sample of cases selected from the eligibility files. These reviews are conducted to determine whether the sampled cases meet applicable Title XIX eligibility requirements. State agencies are required to submit the Payment Error Rate form to their respective CMS Regional Office. Regional Office staff

will review these forms for completeness and will forward these forms to central office for compilation of error rate charts for projected quarterly withholdings and/or fiscal disallowances. *Form Number:* CMS-301 (OMB#: 0938-0246); *Frequency:* Recordkeeping and Reporting—Semi-annually; *Affected Public:* State, Local or Tribal Governments; *Number of Respondents:* 51; *Total Annual Responses:* 102; *Total Annual Hours:* 22,515.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, access CMS Web site address at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PaperworkReductionActof1995>, or e-mail your request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and CMS document identifier, to Paperwork@cms.hhs.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections must be mailed or faxed within 30 days of this notice directly to the OMB desk officer: OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, Attention: Carolyn Lovett, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503. Fax Number: (202) 395-6974.

Dated: December 27, 2006.

Michelle Shortt,

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS-1488-CN2]

RIN 0938-A012

Medicare Program; Changes to the Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems and Fiscal Year 2007 Rates; Final Fiscal Year 2007 Wage Indices and Payment Rates After Application of Revised Occupational Mix Adjustment to the Wage Index; Corrections

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), HHS.

ACTION: Correction of notice.

SUMMARY: This document corrects wage index and technical errors that appeared in the notice published in the **Federal**

Register on October 11, 2006 entitled "Medicare Program; Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems and Fiscal Year 2007 Rates.

DATES: *Effective Date:* Corrections listed in items 10 through 12 of section III. of this notice are effective as of October 1, 2006. The corrections to the wage index listed in items 2a, 3 through 8a, and 9a of section III. of this notice are effective as of November 3, 2006. The corrections to the wage index listed in items 1, 2b, 8b, and 9b of section III. of this notice are effective as of November 21, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Marc Hartstein, (410) 786-4548.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

In FR Doc. 06-8471 of October 11, 2006 (71 FR 59886), the notice entitled "Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems and Fiscal Year 2007 Rates: Final Fiscal Year 2007 Wage Indices and Payment Rates After Application of Revised Occupational Mix Adjustment to Wage Index" (hereinafter referred to as the "FY 2007 IPPS notice"), there were a number of technical errors that are identified and corrected in the Correction of Errors section (items 10 through 12 of section III. of this notice). These technical corrections are effective October 1, 2006.

In addition, in October 2006, we became aware of an error in the calculation of the FY 2007 wage index for a number of rural areas and several hospitals that are reclassified to those areas. The error also affected some hospitals in urban areas that are assigned the statewide rural wage index floor. Section 412.64(k)(1) of the regulations requires that wage index corrections made after October 1 are effective prospectively for the remainder of the fiscal year from the date the fiscal intermediaries are informed of the correction. We recalculated the wage indices for the affected hospitals, and on November 3, 2006, sent a Joint Signature Memorandum to the fiscal intermediaries informing them to pay hospitals using the corrected wage indices. Subsequent to the November 3, 2006 Joint Signature Memorandum, additional errors in the wage indices were brought to our attention and were corrected through a November 21, 2006 Joint Signature Memorandum. Therefore, the corrected FY 2007 wage indices are effective beginning November 3, 2006 or November 21, 2006. Accordingly, the wage index provisions of this correction notice are corrections to the tabulation of the rates paid to hospitals. We note that the