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# FR&R Healthcare eNewsletter

## **SNF BULLETIN**

### Fiscal Year 2015 SNF PPS Final Rule Released

On August 5, 2014, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published its fiscal year 2015 (which begins October 1, 2014) Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Prospective Payment System (PPS) Final Rule in the Federal Register. The document is available at:

#### http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-08-05/pdf/2014-18335.pdf

The Final Rule includes an average update to the SNF PPS rates of 2.0 percent nationally, which includes a 2.5 percent market basket increase, reduced by a 0.5 percent productivity adjustment factor. This increase will result in an increase of payments nationally to SNFs of \$750 million over the fiscal year. It is important to note that other factors determine the final rates for individual SNFs, including wage index and geographic location updates.

CMS also adjusted the wage index including new delineations based on the 2010 census, which may change a provider's Core-Based Statistical Area (CBSA). Some providers, based on the county in which they are located, previously defined as rural may now be urban, and vice versa. Some counties also have changed to a new CBSA. The new wage index for these CBSAs affected will be phased in over a one-year period. Providers with a change in CBSA will have a 50/50 blended rate in fiscal year 2015.

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Pursuant to requirements related to practice before the Internal Revenue Service, any tax advice contained in this communication (including attachments) is not intended to be used, and cannot be used, for purposes of (i) avoiding penalties imposed under the United States Internal Revenue Code or (ii) promoting, marketing or recommending to another person any tax-related matter.

Information contained herein is accurate at the time of publication. We recommend that you consult with your FR&R advisor before implementing any action.

For more information on how we can assist you, contact us at 847.236.1111 or healthcareconsulting@frrCPAs.com.

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