

April 3, 2017

**NOTE TO: Medicare Advantage Organizations and Other Interested Parties**

**SUBJECT: Release of County Fee-for-Service Expenditure Data**

In accordance with section 1853(b) of the Social Security Act (the Act), we are releasing county fee-for-service expenditure data for 2015. These data can be downloaded from the CMS web site at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Health-Plans/MedicareAdvtgSpecRateStats/>. The file is under the link to FFS Data and then the link to FFS Data 2015. Within the file is a spreadsheet for aged and disabled, and End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) beneficiaries.

Each spreadsheet contains several pieces of data for every county in the country:

- total Medicare fee-for-service reimbursement and enrollment reported separately for Parts A and B. This data excludes expenditures for beneficiaries in hospice and those enrolled in cost contracts. Further the Puerto Rico data reflects experience only for beneficiaries enrolled in both Medicare Parts A and B;
- the corresponding per capita reimbursement;
- for Part A, reimbursement for direct (GME) and indirect medical education (IME) expenditures and disproportionate share expenditures (DSH); and
- the per capita expenditures with the medical education and disproportionate share expenditures removed.

Included in the above file are links to the FFS data for beneficiaries in hospice status and those enrolled in cost contracts. We are providing separate links to the FFS data for all Puerto Rico beneficiaries enrolled in parts A and/or B.

Also included are several files supporting the repricing of FFS claims to reflect the most recent payment indices and policies. The spreadsheets [FFS15adjustments-#.xlsx](#) reflect the annual impact of the repricing of 2011-2015 FFS claims. The institutional claims – acute inpatient hospital, skilled nursing facility, hospital outpatient, home health agency, and physician – reflect the repricing of the original claims with the current wage index / GPCI. Adjustments have also been made to reflect the transition of disproportionate share hospital (DSH) payments to uncompensated care payments (UCP). The effects of competitive bidding for durable medical equipment (DME) are reflected in the corresponding adjustment file. Finally, adjustments have been made to account for the shared savings and losses made to providers participating in Medicare innovation models.

The data cells with less than 11 beneficiaries in the FFS files have been suppressed for privacy.

The spreadsheets [Geographic indices 2011-2017 - #.xlsx](#) contain the geographic indices supporting the FFS claim repricing. Also, the document ratebook [FFS repricing specifications CY2018.docx](#) provides technical specifications for the FFS repricing adjustments.

The expenditure data reported on these files may be slightly understated. The expenditure data is derived from actual claims processed by intermediaries and carriers and tabulated through the National Claims History File at CMS. Due to a cutoff date of about 6 months after the close of a year in processing bills for this release, the data are not totally complete, and the degree of completeness varies somewhat from one county to another. In addition, end-of-year settlements between certain providers and CMS, which are not completed until providers file their cost reports, are not reflected in these data.

For questions on the county fee-for-service data, email Ravi Jain at [ravindra.jain@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:ravindra.jain@cms.hhs.gov).

/s/

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