

**[Date]**

[Contact Name]  
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**Proposed Changes to FYs 2016 and 2017 Hospital Wage Index Timeline - Important**

Dear Hospital Representative:

On Wednesday, April 30, 2014, CMS issued the FY 2015 IPPS proposed rule which is available for download on the internet at <https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2014-10067.pdf>. In that proposed rule (CMS-1607-P), CMS proposed significant changes to the FYs 2016 and FY 2017 Wage Index Development Timetables. We are alerting you to these proposed changes now, so that you may plan and comment on this proposal accordingly. The public comment period for the FY 2015 IPPS proposed rule closes by **June 30, 2014**. Comments may be submitted four different ways as indicated in the proposed rule. You may (and we encourage you to) submit electronic comments at <http://www.regulations.gov> by entering "CMS 1607" in the search box, and then clicking on "Comment Now".

As in the FY 2015 IPPS proposed rule, we have pasted the proposed changes for FYs 2016 and 2017 in the tables below, side by side with the existing timetable, so that you may read the proposed changes in the context of the existing timetable. Under the proposed changes for FYs 2016 and 2017, although we are not providing exact dates for the FYs 2016 and 2017 wage index timetable, we note that, with every change listed below, we intend to provide hospitals and MACs with the same or somewhat more time than under the current timetable to complete reviews and request revisions. We note that some changes for FY 2016 are effective beginning in May 2014, which would give hospitals more time to review the preliminary FY 2016 wage index and occupational data. If finalized, these changes would be applicable to the FYs 2016 and 2017 wage index. Please also see attached Tentative FY 2016 Wage Index Timeline.

**Proposed Wage Index Timeline Changes for FY 2016**

<b>Deadlines</b>	<b>FY 2015 Timetable</b>	<b>FY 2016 Timetable</b>
Posting of Preliminary Wage Data PUF on CMS Web site	September 13, 2013	Late May 2014
Posting of Preliminary CY 2013 Occupational Mix Data PUF on CMS Web site	September 13, 2013	Early to Mid-July 2014
Deadline for Hospitals to Request Revisions to Preliminary PUF	November 21, 2013	Early October 2014
Deadline for MACs to Complete Desk Reviews	January 29, 2014	Mid-December 2014
Posting of February PUF on CMS Website	February 20, 2014	Late February 2015

<b>Deadlines</b>	<b>FY 2015 Timetable</b>	<b>FY 2016 Timetable</b>
Deadline Following Posting of February PUF for Hospitals to Request Revisions	March 3, 2014	Early March 2015
Completion of Appeals by MAC and Transmission of Final Wage Data to CMS	April 9, 2014	Early April 2015
Deadline for Hospitals to Appeal in April	April 16, 2014	Mid April 2015
Posting of Final Rule PUF	May 2, 2014	Early May 2015
Deadline for Hospitals to Appeal in June	June 2, 2014	Early June 2015
Expected Issuance of IPPS final rule	August 1, 2014	August 1, 2015

**Proposed Wage Index Timeline Changes for FY 2017**

<b>Deadlines</b>	<b>FY 2015 Timetable</b>	<b>Proposed FY 2017 Timetable</b>
Posting of Preliminary PUF on CMS Web site	September 13, 2013	Mid May 2015
Deadline for Hospitals to Request Revisions to Preliminary PUF	November 21, 2013	Early August 2015
Deadline for MACs to Complete Desk Reviews	January 29, 2014	Mid-October 2015
Posting of February PUF on CMS Web site	February 20, 2014	Late January 2016
Deadline Following Posting of February PUF for Hospitals to Request Revisions	March 3, 2014	Mid-February 2016
Completion of Appeals by MACs and Transmission of Final Wage Data to CMS	April 9, 2014	Mid- to Late March 2016
Deadline for Hospitals to Appeal in April	April 16, 2014	Early April 2016
Posting of Final Rule PUF	May 2, 2014	Late April 2016
Deadline for Hospitals to Appeal in June	June 2, 2014	Late May 2016
Expected Issuance of IPPS final rule	August 1, 2014	August 1, 2016

Sincerely,

[MAC Contact Name]

[Title]