

«Date»

«TitleFirstLast», «JobTitle»

«CompanyName»

«Address1»

«Address2»

City1State1Zip1

Re: **Subject: Availability of the Preliminary Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Wage Index Public Use Files (PUFs), Deadline for Requesting Revisions to the Preliminary FY 2009 Wage Index Data, and FY 2009 Wage Index Development Timetable**

Provider Name: «Provider Name»

Provider Number: «Provider Number»

Dear «TitleFirstLast»,

On **Friday, October 5, 2007**, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is releasing the preliminary FY 2009 wage index PUFs. Hospitals must review the files to confirm the inclusion and accuracy of their wage index data. Hospitals may request revisions to their preliminary wage index data. All requests from hospitals for changes to their FY 2009 wage index data must be submitted to and received by their fiscal intermediaries or Medicare Administrative Contractors (FIs/MACs) **on or before December 7, 2007**.

### **Availability of Wage Index PUFs**

CMS is releasing four preliminary PUFs on the Internet for the FY 2009 wage index: the Worksheet S-3 wage data PUF (which includes Worksheet S-3, Parts II and III wage data from cost reporting periods *beginning* on or after October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005; that is, FY 2005 wage data) and three occupational mix data PUFs (which include separate data files for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter CY 2006 occupational mix data collection (that is, from January 1, 2006 through March 31, 2006), the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter CY 2006 occupational mix data collection (that is, from April 1, 2006 through June 30, 2006), and the combined 6 months (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters) data collection). Both the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter and the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter data collection periods are referred to as the “2006 occupational mix data.”

The files will be available at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/AcuteInpatientPPS/WIFN/list.asp#TopOfPage>. Alternatively, the American Hospital Association generally makes the wage index files available to individual State hospital associations. The files include FY 2005 wage data for all hospitals in our database as of June 30, 2007 and 2006 occupational mix data submitted to CMS by June 8, 2007. The files exclude hospitals designated as CAHs as of September 21, 2007. The FY 2005 wage data and 2006 occupational mix data will be used in the development of the proposed FY 2009 wage index, to be published in the Federal Register in Spring 2008.

All hospitals are required to verify the accuracy of their wage data, as **this (that is, the December 7, 2007 deadline) will be hospitals’ last opportunity to initiate revisions to their data for the FY 2009 wage index.**

### **Hospital Requests for Revisions to the Wage Index Data**

As we noted above and in the attached timetable, hospitals may request revisions to their preliminary wage data and occupational mix data. A hospital that wishes to revise its data must submit its request along with complete, appropriate, detailed supporting documentation to its FI/MAC **no later than December 7, 2007**. Note that December 7 is the deadline for the FIs’/MACs’ receipt of revision requests from hospitals. **Requests postmarked by December 7, but not received until after December 7, are unacceptable.**

*Requirements for Requesting Revisions to Occupational Mix Data* – A hospital requesting revisions to its 1<sup>st</sup> quarter and/or 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter occupational mix survey data must copy its record(s) from the applicable CY 2006 occupational mix data PUFs posted on CMS's web site (address provided above), highlight the revised cells on its spreadsheet, and submit its spreadsheet(s) and complete documentation supporting the change to its FI/MAC, to be received by the FI/MAC no later than December 7, 2007.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me toll-free at (866) 734-9444, extension «Ext.».

Sincerely,

Supervisor Name

Supervisor Cost Report Audit

Medicare Audit and Reimbursement

**WPS Medicare**

E-mail:

cc: «Title2First2Last2», «JobTitle2»  
«Address3»  
«Address4»  
City2State2Zip2