

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration

[HCFA-1039-N]

RIN 0938-A187

Medicare Program; Hospice Wage Index

AGENCY: Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the annual update to the hospice wage index as required by 42 CFR 418.306(c). This update is effective October 1, 1998. The wage index is used to reflect local differences in wage levels. The hospice wage index methodology and values are based on recommendations of a negotiated rulemaking advisory committee and were originally published in the **Federal Register** on August 8, 1997. This update is the second year of a 3-year transition period. The second transition year begins October 1, 1998 and ends September 30, 1999.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This notice is effective on October 1, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carol Blackford, (410) 786-5909.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

A. Statute and Regulations

Hospice Care is an approach to treatment that recognizes that the impending death of an individual warrants a change in the focus from curative care to palliative care (relief of pain and other uncomfortable symptoms). The goal of hospice care is to help terminally ill individuals continue life with minimal disruption to normal activities while remaining primarily in the home environment. A hospice uses an interdisciplinary approach to deliver medical, social, psychological, emotional, and spiritual services through use of a broad spectrum of professional and other caregivers, with the goal of making the individual as physically and emotionally comfortable as possible. Counseling and respite services are available to the family of the hospice patient. Hospice programs consider both the patient and the family as a unit of care.

Section 1861(dd) of the Social Security Act (the Act) provides for coverage of hospice care for terminally ill Medicare beneficiaries who elect to receive care from a participating

hospice. The statutory authority for payment to hospices participating in the Medicare program is contained in section 1814(i) of the Act.

Our existing regulations under 42 CFR Part 418 (issued on December 16, 1983, effective for hospice services furnished on or after November 1, 1983) establish eligibility requirements and payment standards and procedures, define covered services, and delineate the conditions a hospice must meet to be approved for participation in the Medicare program. Subpart G of Part 418 provides for payment to hospices based on one of four prospectively determined rates for each day in which a qualified Medicare beneficiary is under the care of a hospice. The four rate categories are routine home care, continuous home care, inpatient respite care, and general inpatient care. Payment rates are established for each category.

The regulations at § 418.306(c), which require the rates to be adjusted by a wage index, were revised on August 8, 1997, through publication of a final rule in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 42860). This rule implemented a new methodology for calculating the hospice wage index that was based on the recommendations of a negotiated rulemaking committee. The committee reached consensus on a methodology and the resulting committee statement, describing that consensus, was included as an attachment to the August 8, 1997 final hospice wage index rule. The provisions of the final hospice wage index rule are as follows:

- The revised hospice wage index will be phased in over a 3-year transition period. For the first year of the transition period, a blended index was calculated by adding two-thirds of the 1983 index value for an area to one-third of the revised wage index value for that area. During the second year of the transition period, the calculation is similar, except that the blend is one-third of the 1983 index value and two-thirds of the revised wage index value for that area. During the third transition year the revised wage index will be fully implemented. The first transition year occurred October 1, 1997 through September 30, 1998.

- All hospice wage index values of 0.8 or greater are subject to a budget neutrality adjustment to ensure that Medicare does not pay any more in the aggregate than it would with the previous wage index. The budget neutrality adjustment is calculated by multiplying the hospice wage index for a given area by the budget neutrality adjustment factor. The budget neutrality adjustment is to be applied annually,

both during and after the transition period.

- All hospice wage index values below 0.8 receive the greater of the following adjustments: the wage index floor, a 15 percent increase, subject to a maximum wage index value of 0.8; or, the budget neutrality adjustment.

- The wage index is to be updated annually, in the **Federal Register**, based on the most current available hospital wage data.

- Because the Virgin Islands is not an area designated under the Prospective Payment System for hospitals, and does not have a hospital wage index, the hospice wage index for the Virgin Islands will be calculated by gathering information from the hospital cost report and comparing hourly wages of the hospital located in the Virgin Islands to the national average, as described in step 9 of item III(A) (computation of the hospice wage index) in the proposed hospice wage index rule published in the **Federal Register** on September 4, 1996 (61 FR 46583).

Section 4442 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 requires payment for routine and continuous home care to be made based on the geographic location at which the service is furnished. The site of service provision, as it is commonly referred to, was effective October 1, 1997 and was implemented through a Program Memorandum issued in September of 1997. This notice does not address implementation of the site of service provision but merely takes this change into account when analyzing the impact of the annual hospice wage index update.

B. Update to the Hospice Wage Index

The second year of the 3-year transition period begins October 1, 1998 and ends September 30, 1999. In accordance with the agreement signed by HCFA and all other members of the Hospice Wage Index Negotiated Rulemaking Committee, we are using the most current HCFA hospital data available, including any changes to the definitions of MSAs, that allow us to publish this notice at least 4 months in advance of the October 1, 1998 effective date. We will be using the 1997 hospital area wage index. Updated wage index values have been calculated by adding one-third of the 1983 index value for each area to two-thirds of the new wage index value. All wage index values are adjusted by a budget neutrality factor of 1.04662 and are subject to the wage index floor adjustment, if applicable. All of the calculations described above have been completed by HCFA and are built into the wage index values

reflected in both Tables A and B below. At this time, there are no Medicare certified hospices located in the Virgin Islands. Therefore, a wage index value for the Virgin Islands has not been calculated.

C. Tables

TABLE A.—HOSPICE WAGE INDEX FOR URBAN AREAS

MSA code number	Urban area (constituent counties or county equivalents)	Wage index ¹
0040	Abilene, TX	0.9066
0060	Taylor, TX	
	Aguadilla, PR	0.5905
	Aguada, PR	
	Aguadilla, PR	
	Moca, PR	
0080	Akron, OH	1.0563
	Portage, OH	
	Summit, OH	
0120	Albany, GA	0.8629
	Dougherty, GA	
	Lee, GA	
0160	Albany-Schenectady-Troy, NY	0.9030
	Albany, NY	
	Montgomery, NY	
	Rensselaer, NY	
	Saratoga, NY	
	Schenectady, NY	
	Schoharie, NY	
01606 ..	Albany-Schenectady-Troy, NY	0.8958
	Schoharie, NY	
0200	Albuquerque, NM	0.9737
	Sandoval, NM	
	Valencia, NM	
02006 ..	Albuquerque, NM	1.0186
	Bernalillo, NM	
0220	Alexandria, LA	0.9091
	Rapides, LA	
0240	Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA	1.0707
	Carbon, PA	
	Lehigh, PA	
	Northampton, PA	
0280	Altoona, PA	0.9951
	Blair, PA	
0320	Amarillo, TX	0.9959
	Potter, TX	
	Randall, TX	
0380	Anchorage, AK	1.4074
	Anchorage, AK	
0440	Ann Arbor, MI	1.1528
	Lenawee, MI	
04406 ..	Ann Arbor, MI	1.2441
	Washtenaw, MI	
04407 ..	Ann Arbor, MI	1.2406
	Livingston, MI	
0450	Anniston, AL	0.8776
	Calhoun, AL	
0460	Appleton-Oshkosh-Neenah, WI	0.9662
	Calumet, WI	
	Outagamie, WI	
	Winnebago, WI	
0470	Arecibo, PR	0.5905
	Arecibo, PR	
	Camuy, PR	
	Hatillo, PR	
0480	Asheville, NC	0.9296

TABLE A.—HOSPICE WAGE INDEX FOR URBAN AREAS—Continued

MSA code number	Urban area (constituent counties or county equivalents)	Wage index ¹
04806 ..	Madison, NC	0.9647
	Asheville, NC	
	Buncombe, NC	
0500	Athens, GA	0.9416
	Clarke, GA	
	Madison, GA	
	Oconee, GA	
0520	Atlanta, GA	1.0139
	Barrow, GA	
	Cherokee, GA	
	Clayton, GA	
	Cobb, GA	
	Coweta, GA	
	DeKalb, GA	
	Douglas, GA	
	Fayette, GA	
	Forsyth, GA	
	Fulton, GA	
	Gwinnett, GA	
	Henry, GA	
	Newton, GA	
	Paulding, GA	
	Rockdale, GA	
	Spalding, GA	
	Walton, GA	
05206 ..	Atlanta, GA	0.9820
	Bartow, GA	
	Carroll, GA	
	Pickens, GA	
0560	Atlantic-Cape May, NJ ..	1.1498
	Atlantic City, NJ	
	Cape May, NJ	
0600	Augusta-Aiken, GA-SC ..	0.9866
	Columbia, GA	
	McDuffie, GA	
	Richmond, GA	
	Aiken, SC	
06006 ..	Augusta-Aiken, GA-SC ..	0.9333
	Edgefield, SC	
0640	Austin-San Marcos, TX ..	0.9206
	Bastrop, TX	
	Caldwell, TX	
06406 ..	Austin-San Marcos, TX ..	1.0067
	Hays, TX	
	Travis, TX	
	Williamson, TX	
0680	Bakersfield, CA	1.1268
	Kern, CA	
0720	Baltimore, MD	1.0549
	Anne Arundel, MD	
	Baltimore, MD	
	Baltimore City, MD	
	Carroll, MD	
	Harford, MD	
	Howard, MD	
	Queen Anne's, MD	
0733	Bangor, ME	0.9847
	Penobscot, ME	
0743	Barnstable-Yarmouth, MA ..	1.3359
	Barnstable, MA	
0760	Baton Rouge, LA	0.9398
	Ascension, LA	
	East Baton Rouge, LA	
	Livingston, LA	
	West Baton Rouge, LA	
0840	Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX ..	0.9440
	Hardin, TX	

TABLE A.—HOSPICE WAGE INDEX FOR URBAN AREAS—Continued

MSA code number	Urban area (constituent counties or county equivalents)	Wage index ¹
	Jefferson, TX	
	Orange, TX	
0860	Bellingham, WA	1.1508
	Whatcom, WA	
0870	Benton Harbor, MI	0.9273
	Berrien, NJ	
0875	Bergen-Passaic, NJ	1.2072
	Bergen, NJ	
	Passaic, NJ	
0880	Billings, MT	1.0192
	Yellowstone, MT	
0920	Biloxi-Gulfport-Pascagoula, MS ..	0.8910
	Hancock, MS	
	Harrison, MS	
09206 ..	Biloxi-Gulfport-Pascagoula, MS ..	0.9409
	Jackson, MS	
0960	Binghamton, NY	0.9543
	Broome, NY	
	Tioga, NY	
1000	Birmingham, AL	0.9788
	Blount, AL	
	Jefferson, AL	
	St. Clair, AL	
	Shelby, AL	
1010	Bismarck, ND	0.8893
	Burleigh, ND	
	Morton, ND	
1020	Bloomington, IN	0.9559
	Monroe, IN	
1040	Bloomington-Normal, IL ..	0.9630
	McLean, IL	
1080	Boise City, ID	0.9320
	Canyon, ID	
10806 ..	Boise City, ID	0.9931
	Ada, ID	
1123	Boston-Worcester-Lawrence-Lowell-Brockton, MA-NH ..	1.1805
	Essex, MA	
	Middlesex, MA	
	Norfolk, MA	
	Plymouth, MA	
	Suffolk, MA	
11236 ..	Boston-Worcester-Lawrence-Lowell-Brockton, MA-NH ..	1.1246
	Hillsborough, NH	
	Merrimack, NH	
11237 ..	Boston-Worcester-Lawrence-Lowell-Brockton, MA-NH ..	1.1356
	Bristol, MA	
11238 ..	Boston-Worcester-Lawrence-Lowell-Brockton, MA-NH ..	1.0935
	Rockingham, NH	
	Strafford, NH	
11239 ..	Boston-Worcester-Lawrence-Lowell-Brockton, MA-NH ..	1.1394
	Worcester, MA	
1125	Boulder-Longmont, CO ..	1.0470
	Boulder, CO	
1145	Brazoria, TX	0.9451
	Brazoria, TX	
1150	Bremerton, WA	1.0810
	Kitsap, WA	

TABLE A.—HOSPICE WAGE INDEX FOR
URBAN AREAS—Continued

MSA code number	Urban area (constituent counties or county equivalents)	Wage index ¹
1240	Brownsville-Harlingen- San Benito, TX.	0.9314
1260	Cameron, TX Bryan-College Station, TX.	0.9147
1280	Brazos, TX	0.9884
12806 ..	Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY.	0.9519
1303	Erie, NY	1.1037
13036 ..	Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY.	1.0444
1310	Niagara, NY	0.6085
1320	Burlington, VT	0.9670
1350	Franklin, VT	0.9866
1360	Chittenden, VT	0.9223
1400	Grand Isle, VT	0.9731
1440	Caguas, PR	0.9725
1480	Caguas, PR	1.0228
1520	Cayey, PR	1.0186
1540	Cidra, PR	1.0824
1560	Gurabo, PR	0.9415
1580	San Lorenzo, PR	0.9091
1600	Canton-Massillon, OH ...	1.0607
16006 ..	Carroll, OH	1.1051
16007 ..	Stark, OH	1.1832
	Casper, WY	
	Natrona, WY	
	Cedar Rapids, IA	
	Linn, IA	
	Champaign-Urbana, IL ..	
	Champaign, IL	
	Charleston-North Charleston, SC.	
	Berkeley, SC	
	Charleston, SC	
	Dorchester, SC	
	Charleston, WV	
	Kanawha, WV	
	Putnam, WV	
	Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, NC-SC.	
	Cabarrus, NC	
	Gaston, NC	
	Lincoln, NC	
	Mecklenburg, NC	
	Rowan, NC	
	Stanly, NC	
	Union, NC	
	York, SC	
	Charlottesville, VA	
	Albemarle, VA	
	Charlottesville City, VA ..	
	Fluvanna, VA	
	Greene, VA	
	Chattanooga, TN-GA	
	Catoosa, GA	
	Dade, GA	
	Walker, GA	
	Hamilton, TN	
	Marion, TN	
	Cheyenne, WY	
	Laramie, WY	
	Chicago, IL	
	DeKalb, IL	
	Chicago, IL	
	Kane, IL	
	Kendall, IL	
	Chicago, IL	

TABLE A.—HOSPICE WAGE INDEX FOR
URBAN AREAS—Continued

MSA code number	Urban area (constituent counties or county equivalents)	Wage index ¹
16008 ..	Cook, IL	1.1378
16009 ..	Du Page, IL	1.1445
1620	McHenry, IL	1.0960
1640	Chicago, IL	0.9617
16406 ..	Grundy, IL	0.9455
16407 ..	Will, IL	0.9801
16408 ..	Chicago, IL	1.0294
1660	Lake, IL	0.8389
1680	Chico-Paradise, CA	1.0031
16806 ..	Butte, CA	1.1037
1720	Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN ...	1.0362
1740	Ohio, IN	1.0242
1760	Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN ...	0.9764
1800	Gallatin, KY	0.8749
18006 ..	Grant, KY	0.8992
1840	Pendleton, KY	1.0469
1880	Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN ...	0.9607
1900	Brown, OH	0.9456
1920	Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN ...	1.0529
	Dearborn, IN	
	Boone, KY	
	Campbell, KY	
	Kenton, KY	
	Clermont, OH	
	Hamilton, OH	
	Warren, OH	
	Clarksville-Hopkinsville, TN-KY.	
	Christian, KY	
	Montgomery, TN	
	Cleveland-Lorain-Elyria, OH.	
	Ashtabula, OH	
	Cleveland-Lorain-Elyria, OH.	
	Cuyahoga, OH	
	Geauga, OH	
	Lake, OH	
	Medina, OH	
	Cleveland-Lorain-Elyria, OH.	
	Lorain, OH	
	Colorado Springs, CO ...	
	El Paso, CO	
	Columbia, MO	
	Boone, MO	
	Columbia, SC	
	Lexington, SC	
	Richland, SC	
	Harris, GA	
	Columbus, GA-AL	
	Russell, AL	
	Chattahoochee, GA	
	Muscogee, GA	
	Columbus, OH	
	Delaware, OH	
	Fairfield, OH	
	Franklin, OH	
	Licking, OH	
	Madison, OH	
	Pickaway, OH	
	Corpus Christi, TX	
	Nueces, TX	
	San Patricio, TX	
	Cumberland, MD-WV ...	
	Allegany, MD	
	Mineral, WV	
	Dallas, TX	
	Collin, TX	

TABLE A.—HOSPICE WAGE INDEX FOR
URBAN AREAS—Continued

MSA code number	Urban area (constituent counties or county equivalents)	Wage index ¹
19206 ..	Dallas, TX	0.9604
1950	Denton, TX	0.8719
1960	Ellis, TX	0.9291
2000	Kaufman, TX	1.0565
2020	Rockwall, TX	0.9209
20206 ..	Dallas, TX	0.9548
2030	Henderson, TX	0.8572
2040	Hunt, TX	0.8952
2080	Danville, VA	1.1482
2120	Danville City, VA	0.9902
2160	Pittsylvania, VA	1.1737
2180	Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL.	0.8717
2190	Scott, IA	0.9636
2200	Henry, IL	0.9230
2240	Rock Island, IL	1.0017
2281	Dayton-Springfield, OH ..	1.1228
2290	Clark, OH	0.9500
2320	Greene, OH	1.0200
2330	Miami, OH	0.9443
2335	Montgomery, OH	0.9440
2340	Daytona Beach, FL	0.8701
	Flagler, FL	
	Daytona Beach, FL	
	Volusia, FL	
	Decatur, AL	
	Lawrence, AL	
	Morgan, AL	
	Decatur, IL	
	Macon, IL	
	Denver, CO	
	Adams, CO	
	Arapahoe, CO	
	Denver, CO	
	Douglas, CO	
	Jefferson, CO	
	Des Moines, IA	
	Dallas, IA	
	Polk, IA	
	Warren, IA	
	Detroit, MI	
	Lapeer, MI	
	Macomb, MI	
	Monroe, MI	
	Oakland, MI	
	St. Clair, MI	
	Wayne, MI	
	Dothan, AL	
	Dale, AL	
	Houston, AL	
	Dover, DE	
	Kent, DE	
	Dubuque, IA	
	Dubuque, IA	
	Duluth-Superior, MN-WI ..	
	St. Louis, MN	
	Douglas, WI	
	Dutchess County, NY	
	Dutchess, NY	
	Eau Claire, WI	
	Chippewa, WI	
	Eau Claire, WI	
	El Paso, TX	
	Elkhart-Goshen, IN	
	Elkhart, IN	
	Elmira, NY	
	Chemung, NY	
	Enid, OK	

TABLE A.—HOSPICE WAGE INDEX FOR
URBAN AREAS—Continued

MSA code number	Urban area (constituent counties or county equivalents)	Wage index ¹
2360	Garfield, OK	
	Erie, PA	0.9647
2400	Erie, PA	
	Eugene-Springfield, OR	1.1426
2440	Lane, OR	
	Evansville-Henderson, IN-KY.	0.9550
	Posey, IN	
	Vanderburgh, IN	
	Warrick, IN	
	Henderson, KY	
2520	Fargo-Moorhead, ND- MN.	0.9672
	Clay, MN	
	Cass, ND	
2560	Fayetteville, NC	0.9347
	Cumberland, NC	
2580	Fayetteville-Springdale- Rogers, AR.	0.8000
	Benton, AR	
2580	Fayetteville-Springdale- Rogers, AR.	0.8102
	Washington, AR	
2620	Flagstaff, AZ-UT	0.9482
	Coconino, AZ	
26206 ..	Flagstaff, AZ-UT	0.9242
	Kane, UT	
2640	Flint, MI	1.1814
	Genesee, MI	
2650	Florence, AL	0.8029
	Colbert, AL	
	Lauderdale, AL	
2655	Florence, SC	0.8894
	Florence, SC	
2670	Fort Collins-Loveland, CO.	1.0387
	Larimer, CO	
2680	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	1.1164
	Broward, FL	
2700	Fort Myers-Cape Coral, FL.	0.9391
	Lee, FL	
2710	Fort Pierce-Port St. Lucie, FL.	1.0625
	Martin, FL	
	St. Lucie, FL	
2720	Fort Smith, AR-OK	0.8806
	Crawford, AR	
	Sebastian, AR	
	Sequoyah, OK	
2750	Fort Walton Beach, FL ..	0.8958
	Okaloosa, FL	
2760	Fort Wayne, IN	0.9217
	Adams, IN	
	Huntington, IN	
	Wells, IN	
2760	Fort Wayne, IN	0.9506
	Allen, IN	
	De Kalb, IN	
	Whitley, IN	
2800	Forth Worth-Arlington, TX.	0.9797
	Hood, TX	
28006 ..	Forth Worth-Arlington, TX.	1.0201
	Johnson, TX	
	Parker, TX	
	Tarrant, TX	
2840	Fresno, CA	1.0927

TABLE A.—HOSPICE WAGE INDEX FOR
URBAN AREAS—Continued

MSA code number	Urban area (constituent counties or county equivalents)	Wage index ¹
28406 ..	Madera, CA	
	Fresno, CA	1.1570
	Fresno, CA	
2880	Gadsden, AL	0.9372
	Etowah, AL	
2900	Gainesville, FL	1.0097
	Alachua, FL	
2920	Galveston-Texas City, TX.	1.1495
	Galveston, TX	
2960	Gary, IN	1.0636
	Lake, IN	
	Porter, IN	
2975	Glens Falls, NY	0.8936
	Warren, NY	
	Washington, NY	
2980	Goldsboro, NC	0.8857
	Wayne, NC	
2985	Grand Forks, ND-MN ...	0.9098
	Polk, MN	
29856 ..	Grand Forks, ND-MN ...	0.9507
	Grand Forks, ND	
2995	Grand Junction, CO	0.9246
3000	Mesa, CO	
	Grand Rapids-Muske- gon-Holland, MI.	1.0385
30006 ..	Allegan, MI	
	Grand Rapids-Muske- gon-Holland, MI.	1.0568
	Kent, MI	
	Ottawa, MI	
30007 ..	Grand Rapids-Muske- gon-Holland, MI.	1.0333
	Muskegon, MI	
3040	Great Falls, MT	0.9738
	Cascade, MT	
3060	Greeley, CO	1.0823
	Weld, CO	
3080	Green Bay, WI	0.9827
	Brown, WI	
3120	Greensboro-Winston- Salem-High Point, NC.	0.9866
	Davidson, NC	
	Davie, NC	
	Forsyth, NC	
	Guilford, NC	
	Randolph, NC	
	Stokes, NC	
	Yadkin, NC	
31206 ..	Greensboro-Winston- Salem-High Point, NC.	0.9483
	Alamance, NC	
3150	Greenville, NC	0.9291
	Pitt, NC	
3160	Greenville-Spartanburg- Anderson, SC.	0.9142
	Cherokee, SC	
31606 ..	Greenville-Spartanburg- Anderson, SC.	0.9372
	Anderson, SC	
31607 ..	Greenville-Spartanburg- Anderson, SC.	0.9626
	Greenville, SC	
	Pickens, SC	
	Spartanburg, SC	
3180	Hagerstown, MD	1.0275
	Washington, MD	
3200	Hamilton-Middletown, OH.	0.9757

TABLE A.—HOSPICE WAGE INDEX FOR
URBAN AREAS—Continued

MSA code number	Urban area (constituent counties or county equivalents)	Wage index ¹
3240	Butler, OH	
	Harrisburg-Lebanon- Carlisle, PA.	1.0721
	Cumberland, PA	
	Dauphin, PA	
	Lebanon, PA	
	Perry, PA	
3283	Hartford, CT	1.2533
	Hartford, CT	
	Litchfield, CT	
	Middlesex, CT	
	Tolland, CT	
3285	Hattiesburg, MS	0.8007
	Forrest, MS	
	Lamar, MS	
3290	Hickory-Morganton- Lenoir, NC.	0.9027
	Caldwell, NC	
32906 ..	Hickory-Morganton- Lenoir, NC.	0.9376
	Alexander, NC	
	Burke, NC	
	Catawba, NC	
3320	Honolulu, HI	1.2246
	Honolulu, HI	
3350	Houma, LA	0.8894
	Lafourche, LA	
3360	Terrebonne, LA	
	Houston, TX	1.0755
	Fort Bend, TX	
	Harris, TX	
	Liberty, TX	
	Montgomery, TX	
	Waller, TX	
33606 ..	Houston, TX	0.9710
	Chambers, TX	
3400	Huntington-Ashland, WV-KY-OH.	0.9813
	Boyd, KY	
	Carter, KY	
	Greenup, KY	
	Lawrence, OH	
	Cabell, WV	
	Wayne, WV	
3440	Huntsville, AL	0.8711
	Limestone, AL	
34406 ..	Huntsville, AL	0.9057
	Madison, AL	
3480	Indianapolis, IN	1.0554
	Boone, IN	
	Hamilton, IN	
	Hancock, IN	
	Hendricks, IN	
	Johnson, IN	
	Marion, IN	
	Morgan, IN	
	Shelby, IN	
34806 ..	Indianapolis, IN	1.0252
	Madison, IN	
3500	Iowa City, IA	1.0545
	Johnson, IA	
3520	Jackson, MI	0.9903
	Jackson, MI	
3560	Jackson, MS	0.8593
	Hinds, MS	
	Madison, MS	
	Rankin, MS	
3580	Jackson, TN	0.8737
	Madison, TN	

TABLE A.—HOSPICE WAGE INDEX FOR
URBAN AREAS—Continued

MSA code number	Urban area (constituent counties or county equivalents)	Wage index ¹
3600	Chester, TN Jacksonville, FL	0.9717
	Clay, FL Duval, FL Nassau, FL St. Johns, FL	
3605	Jacksonville, NC	0.8625
	Onslow, NC	
3610	Jamestown, NY	0.8902
	Chautauqua, NY	
3620	Janesville-Beloit, WI	0.9264
	Rock, WI	
3640	Jersey City, NJ	1.1770
	Hudson, NJ	
3660	Johnson City-Kingsport- Bristol, TN-VA.	0.9583
	Carter, TN Hawkins, TN Sullivan, TN Unicoi, TN Washington, TN Bristol City, VA Scott, VA Washington, VA	
3680	Johnstown, PA	0.9463
	Cambria, PA Somerset, PA	
3700	Jonesboro, AR	0.8000
	Craighead, AR	
3710	Joplin, MO	0.8526
	Jasper, MO Newton, MO	
3720	Kalamazoo-Battlecreek, MI.	1.0749
	Van Buren, MI	
37206 ..	Kalamazoo-Battlecreek, MI.	1.1141
	Calhoun, MI	
37207 ..	Kalamazoo-Battlecreek, MI.	1.1724
	Kalamazoo, MI	
3740	Kankakee, IL	0.9227
	Kankakee, IL	
3760	Kansas City, KS-MO	0.9568
	Clinton, MO	
37606 ..	Kansas City, KS-MO	1.0086
	Johnson, KS Leavenworth, KS Miami, KS Wyandotte, KS	
37607 ..	Kansas City, KS-MO	1.0130
	Cass, MO Clay, MO Jackson, MO Lafayette, MO Platte, MO Ray, MO	
3800	Kenosha, WI	1.0224
	Kenosha, WI	
3810	Killeen-Temple, TX	1.0433
	Bell, TX Coryell, TX	
3840	Knoxville, TN	0.9366
	Anderson, TN Blount, TN Knox, TN Sevier, TN Union, TN	
38406 ..	Knoxville, TN	0.8953

TABLE A.—HOSPICE WAGE INDEX FOR
URBAN AREAS—Continued

MSA code number	Urban area (constituent counties or county equivalents)	Wage index ¹
3850	Loudon, TN Kokomo, IN	0.9225
	Howard, IN Tipton, IN	
3870	La Crosse, WI-MN	0.9101
	Houston, MN La Crosse, WI	
38706 ..	La Crosse, WI-MN	0.9385
	La Crosse, WI	
3880	Lafayette, LA	0.8641
	Acadia, LA St. Landry, LA	
38806 ..	Lafayette, LA	0.9271
	Lafayette, LA St. Martin, LA	
3920	Lafayette, IN	0.9407
	Clinton, IN	
39206 ..	Lafayette, IN	0.9580
	Tippecanoe, IN	
3960	Lake Charles, LA	0.8894
	Calcasieu, LA	
3980	Lakeland-Winter Haven, FL.	0.9403
	Polk, FL	
4000	Lancaster, PA	1.0234
	Lancaster, PA	
4040	Lansing-East Lansing, MI.	1.0707
	Clinton, MI Eaton, MI Ingham, MI	
4080	Laredo, TX	0.8187
	Webb, TX	
4100	Las Cruces, NM	0.8982
	Dona Ana, NM	
4120	Las Vegas, NV-AZ	1.0512
	Mohave, AZ	
41206 ..	Las Vegas, NV-AZ	1.0941
	Nye, NV	
41207 ..	Las Vegas, NV-AZ	1.1643
	Clark, NV	
4150	Lawrence, KS	0.9424
	Douglas, KS	
4200	Lawton, OK	0.9547
	Comanche, OK	
4243	Lewiston-Auburn, ME	0.9855
	Androscoggin, ME	
4280	Lexington, KY	0.9194
	Bourbon, KY Clark, KY Fayette, KY Jessamine, KY Scott, KY	
42806 ..	Woodford, KY	0.8699
	Lexington, KY	
4320	Madison, KY	0.9893
	Lima, OH	
	Allen, OH Auglaize, OH	
4360	Lincoln, NE	0.9465
	Lancaster, NE	
4400	Little Rock-North Little Rock, AR.	0.9476
	Faulkner, AR Lonoke, AR Pulaski, AR Saline, AR	
4420	Longview-Marshall, TX ..	0.8843
	Upshur, TX	

TABLE A.—HOSPICE WAGE INDEX FOR
URBAN AREAS—Continued

MSA code number	Urban area (constituent counties or county equivalents)	Wage index ¹
44206 ..	Longview-Marshall, TX ..	0.8996
	Gregg, TX Harrison, TX	
4480	Los Angeles-Long Beach, CA.	1.3083
	Los Angeles, CA	
4520	Louisville, KY-IN	1.0420
	Clark, IN Floyd, IN Harrison, IN Bullitt, KY Jefferson, KY Oldham, KY	
45206 ..	Louisville, KY-IN	0.9640
	Scott, IN	
4600	Lubbock, TX	0.9380
	Lubbock, TX	
4640	Lynchburg, VA	0.8713
	Bedford, VA Bedford City, VA	
46406 ..	Lynchburg, VA	0.8964
	Amherst, VA Campbell, VA Lynchburg City, VA	
4680	Macon, GA	0.9874
	Bibb, GA Houston, GA Jones, GA Peach, GA	
46806 ..	Macon, GA	0.9404
	Twiggs, GA	
4720	Madison, WI	1.0595
	Dane, WI	
4800	Mansfield, OH	0.9218
	Crawford, OH	
48006 ..	Mansfield, OH	0.9229
	Richland, OH	
4840	Mayaguez, PR	0.6098
	Anasco, PR Cabo Rojo, PR Hormigueros, PR Mayaguez, PR Sabana Grande, PR San German, PR	
4880	McAllen-Edinburg-Mis- sion, TX.	0.8764
	Hidalgo, TX	
4890	Medford-Ashland, OR ...	1.0662
	Jackson, OR	
4900	Melbourne-Titusville- Palm Bay, FL.	0.9423
	Brevard, FL	
4920	Memphis, TN-AR-MS ..	0.9748
	Crittenden, AR DeSoto, MS Shelby, TN Tipton, TN	
49206 ..	Memphis, TN-AR-MS ..	0.8784
	Fayette, TN	
4940	Merced, CA	1.1164
	Merced, CA	
5000	Miami, FL	1.0888
	Dade, FL	
5015	Middlesex-Somerset- Hunterdon, NJ.	1.1426
	Hunterdon, NJ Middlesex, NJ Somerset, NJ	

TABLE A.—HOSPICE WAGE INDEX FOR
URBAN AREAS—Continued

MSA code number	Urban area (constituent counties or county equivalents)	Wage index ¹
5080	Milwaukee-Waukesha, WI.	1.0522
	Milwaukee, WI	
	Ozaukee, WI	
	Washington, WI	
	Waukesha, WI	
5120	Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI.	1.0385
	Pierce, WI	
51206 ..	Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI.	1.1072
	Anoka, MN	
	Carver, MN	
	Chisago, MN	
	Dakota, MN	
	Hennepin, MN	
	Isanti, MN	
	Ramsey, MN	
	Scott, MN	
	Washington, MN	
	Wright, MN	
	St. Croix, WI	
51207 ..	Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI.	1.0561
	Sherburne, MN	
5160	Mobile, AL	0.9154
	Baldwin, AL	
	Mobile, AL	
5170	Modesto, CA	1.1297
	Stanislaus, CA	
5190	Monmouth-Ocean, NJ ...	1.1070
	Monmouth, NJ	
	Ocean, NJ	
5200	Monroe, LA	0.9202
5240	Ouachita, LA	
	Montgomery, AL	0.8745
	Autauga, AL	
	Elmore, AL	
5280	Montgomery, AL	
	Muncie, IN	0.9813
	Delaware, IN	
5330	Myrtle Beach, SC	0.8453
	Horry, SC	
5345	Naples, FL	1.0096
	Collier, FL	
5360	Nashville, TN	1.0693
	Cheatham, TN	
	Davidson, TN	
	Dickson, TN	
	Robertson, TN	
	Rutherford, TN	
	Sumner, TN	
	Williamson, TN	
	Wilson, TN	
5380	Nassau-Suffolk, NY	1.3852
	Nassau, NY	
	Suffolk, NY	
5483	New Haven-Bridgeport- Stamford-Waterbury- Danbury, CT.	1.2841
	Fairfield, CT	
54836 ..	New Haven-Bridgeport- Stamford-Waterbury- Danbury, CT.	1.2525
	New Haven, CT	
5523	New London-Norwich, CT.	1.2525
	New London, CT	
5560	New Orleans, LA	1.0220

TABLE A.—HOSPICE WAGE INDEX FOR
URBAN AREAS—Continued

MSA code number	Urban area (constituent counties or county equivalents)	Wage index ¹
	Jefferson, LA	
	Orleans, LA	
	St. Bernard, LA	
	St. Charles, LA	
	St. John The Baptist, LA	
	St. Tammany, LA	
55606 ..	New Orleans, LA	0.9590
	Plaquemines, LA	
	St. James, LA	
5600	New York, NY	1.4545
	Bronx, NY	
	Kings, NY	
	New York, NY	
	Putnam, NY	
	Queens, NY	
	Richmond, NY	
	Rockland, NY	
	Westchester, NY	
5640	Newark, NJ	1.2297
	Essex, NJ	
	Morris, NJ	
	Sussex, NJ	
	Union, NJ	
5640	Newark, NJ	1.2028
	Warren, NJ	
5660	Newburgh, NY-PA	1.1476
	Pike, PA	
56606 ..	Newburgh, NY-PA	1.1382
	Orange, NY	
5720	Norfolk-Virginia Beach- Newport News, VA- NC.	0.9215
	Chesapeake City, VA	
	Gloucester, VA	
	Hampton City, VA	
	James City, VA	
	Newport News City, VA	
	Norfolk City, VA	
	Poquoson City, VA	
	Portsmouth City, VA	
	Suffolk City, VA	
	Virginia Beach City, VA	
	Williamsburg City, VA	
	York, VA	
57206 ..	Norfolk-Virginia Beach- Newport News, VA- NC.	0.8774
	Isle of Wight, VA	
	Mathews, VA	
57207 ..	Norfolk-Virginia Beach- Newport News, VA- NC.	0.8769
	Currituck, NC	
5775	Oakland, CA	1.4914
	Alameda, CA	
5790	Contra Costa, CA	
	Ocala, FL	0.9825
	Marion, FL	
5800	Odessa-Midland, TX	0.9804
	Midland, TX	
58006 ..	Odessa-Midland, TX	0.9453
	Ector, TX	
5880	Oklahoma City, OK	0.9606
	Canadian, OK	
	Cleveland, OK	
	Logan, OK	
	McClain, OK	
	Oklahoma, OK	
	Pottawatomie, OK	

TABLE A.—HOSPICE WAGE INDEX FOR
URBAN AREAS—Continued

MSA code number	Urban area (constituent counties or county equivalents)	Wage index ¹
5910	Olympia, WA	1.1295
	Thurston, WA	
5920	Omaha, NE-IA	0.9694
	Pottawattamie, IA	
	Douglas, NE	
	Sarpy, NE	
	Washington, NE	
59206 ..	Omaha, NE-IA	0.9364
	Cass, NE	
5945	Orange County, CA	1.2439
	Orange, CA	
5960	Orlando, FL	1.0096
	Orange, FL	
	Osceola, FL	
	Seminole, FL	
59606 ..	Orlando, FL	0.9599
	Lake, FL	
5990	Owensboro, KY	0.8510
	Daviess, KY	
6015	Panama City, FL	0.9333
	Bay, FL	
6020	Parkersburg-Marietta, WV-OH.	0.9357
	Washington, OH	
	Wood, WV	
6080	Pensacola, FL	0.9345
	Escambia, FL	
	Santa Rosa, FL	
6120	Peoria-Pekin, IL	0.9883
	Peoria, IL	
	Tazewell, IL	
	Woodford, IL	
6160	Philadelphia, PA-NJ	1.2042
	Burlington, NJ	
	Camden, NJ	
	Gloucester, NJ	
	Bucks, PA	
	Chester, PA	
	Delaware, PA	
	Montgomery, PA	
	Philadelphia, PA	
61606 ..	Philadelphia, PA-NJ	1.1740
	Salem, NJ	
6200	Phoenix-Mesa, AZ	0.9824
	Pinal, AZ	
62006 ..	Phoenix-Mesa, AZ	1.0583
	Maricopa, AZ	
6240	Pine Bluff, AR	0.8521
	Jefferson, AR	
6280	Pittsburgh, PA	1.0758
	Allegheny, PA	
	Fayette, PA	
	Washington, PA	
	Westmoreland, PA	
62806 ..	Pittsburgh, PA	1.0575
	Beaver, PA	
62807 ..	Pittsburgh, PA	1.0389
	Butler, PA	
6323	Pittsfield, MA	1.1071
	Berkshire, MA	
6340	Pocatello, ID	0.9829
	Bannock, ID	
6360	Ponce, PR	0.6185
	Guayanilla, PR	
	Juana Diaz, PR	
	Penuelas, PR	
	Ponce, PR	
	Villalba, PR	
	Yauco, PR	

TABLE A.—HOSPICE WAGE INDEX FOR
URBAN AREAS—Continued

MSA code number	Urban area (constituent counties or county equivalents)	Wage index ¹
6403	Portland, ME	1.0085
	Cumberland, ME	
	Sagadahoc, ME	
	York, ME	
6440	Portland-Vancouver, OR—WA.	1.1251
	Columbia, OR	
64406 ..	Portland-Vancouver, OR—WA.	1.1820
	Clackamas, OR	
	Multnomah, OR	
	Washington, OR	
	Yamhill, OR	
64407 ..	Portland-Vancouver, OR—WA.	1.1693
	Clark, WA	
6483	Providence-Warwick- Pawtucket, RI.	1.1119
	Bristol, RI	
	Kent, RI	
	Newport, RI	
	Providence, RI	
	Washington, RI	
6520	Provo-Orem, UT	1.0332
	Utah, UT	
6560	Pueblo, CO	0.9943
	Pueblo, CO	
6580	Punta Gorda, FL	0.9209
	Charlotte, FL	
6600	Racine, WI	0.9727
	Racine, WI	
6640	Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, NC.	0.9817
	Chatham, NC	
	Johnston, NC	
66406 ..	Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, NC.	1.0388
	Durham, NC	
	Franklin, NC	
	Orange, NC	
	Wake, NC	
6660	Rapid City, SD	0.8614
	Pennington, SD	
6680	Reading, PA	1.0228
	Berks, PA	
6690	Redding, CA	1.1905
	Shasta, CA	
6720	Reno, NV	1.2044
	Washoe, NV	
6740	Richland-Kennewick- Pasco, WA.	1.0462
	Benton, WA	
	Franklin, WA	
6760	Richmond-Petersburg, VA.	0.9479
	Charles City County, VA	
	Chesterfield, VA	
	Colonial Heights City, VA	
	Dinwiddie, VA	
	Goochland, VA	
	Hanover, VA	
	Henrico, VA	
	Hopewell City, VA	
	New Kent, VA	
	Petersburg City, VA	
	Powhatan, VA	
	Prince George, VA	
	Richmond City, VA	

TABLE A.—HOSPICE WAGE INDEX FOR
URBAN AREAS—Continued

MSA code number	Urban area (constituent counties or county equivalents)	Wage index ¹
6780	Riverside-San Bernardino, CA.	1.1990
	Riverside, CA	
	San Bernardino, CA	
6800	Roanoke, VA	0.9358
	Botetourt, VA	
	Roanoke, VA	
	Roanoke City, VA	
	Salem City, VA	
6820	Rochester, MN	1.0905
	Olmsted, MN	
6840	Rochester, NY	1.0266
	Livingston, NY	
	Monroe, NY	
	Ontario, NY	
	Orleans, NY	
	Wayne, NY	
68406 ..	Rochester, NY	0.9686
	Genesee, NY	
6880	Rockford, IL	0.9365
	Ogle, IL	
68806 ..	Rockford, IL	0.9976
	Boone, IL	
	Winnebago, IL	
6895	Rocky Mount, NC	0.9266
	Edgecombe, NC	
	Nash, NC	
6920	Sacramento, CA	1.2499
	El Dorado, CA	
	Placer, CA	
	Sacramento, CA	
6960	Saginaw-Bay City-Mid- land, MI.	1.0493
	Bay, MI	
	Midland, MI	
	Saginaw, MI	
6980	St. Cloud, MN	0.9731
	Benton, MN	
	Stearns, MN	
	St. Joseph, MO	0.8732
	Andrew, MO	
70006 ..	St. Joseph, MO	0.9283
	Buchanan, MO	
7040	St. Louis, MO—IL	0.9265
	Lincoln, MO	
	Warren, MO	
70406 ..	St. Louis, MO—IL	0.9715
	Jersey, IL	
	Madison, IL	
70407 ..	St. Louis, MO—IL	0.9760
	Clinton, IL	
	St. Clair, IL	
70408 ..	St. Louis, MO—IL	1.0109
	Franklin, MO	
	Jefferson, MO	
	Monore, IL	
	St. Charles, MO	
	St. Louis City, MO	
7080	Salem, OR	1.0651
	Marion, OR	
	Polk, OR	
7120	Salinas, CA	1.4579
	Monterey, CA	
7160	Salt Lake City-Ogden, UT.	1.0251
	Davis, UT	
	Salt Lake, UT	
	Weber, UT	
7200	San Angelo, TX	0.8669

TABLE A.—HOSPICE WAGE INDEX FOR
URBAN AREAS—Continued

MSA code number	Urban area (constituent counties or county equivalents)	Wage index ¹
7240	Tom Green, TX	
	San Antonio, TX	0.8764
	Wilson, TX	
72406 ..	San Antonio, TX	0.9599
	Bexar, TX	
	Comal, TX	
	Guadalupe, TX	
7320	San Diego, CA	1.2658
	San Diego, CA	
7360	San Francisco, CA	1.4769
	Marin, CA	
	San Francisco, CA	
	San Mateo, CA	
7400	San Jose, CA	1.4519
	Santa Clara, CA	
7440	San Juan-Bayamon, PR	0.6207
	Aguas Buenas, PR	
	Barceloneta, PR	
	Bayamon, PR	
	Canovanas, PR	
	Carolina, PR	
	Catano, PR	
	Ceiba, PR	
	Comerio, PR	
	Corozal, PR	
	Dorado, PR	
	Fajardo, PR	
	Florida, PR	
	Guaynabo, PR	
	Humacao, PR	
	Juncos, PR	
	Los Piedras, PR	
	Loiza, PR	
	Luguillo, PR	
	Manati, PR	
	Morovis, PR	
	Naguabo, PR	
	Naranjito, PR	
	Rio Grande, PR	
	San Juan, PR	
	Toa Alta, PR	
	Toa Baja, PR	
	Trujillo Alto, PR	
	Vega Alta, PR	
	Vega Baja, PR	
	Yabucoa, PR	
7460	San Luis Obispo- Atascadero-Paso Robles, CA.	1.1462
	San Luis Obispo, CA	
7480	Santa Barbara-Santa Maria-Lompoc, CA.	1.1336
	Santa Barbara, CA	
7485	Santa Cruz-Watsonville, CA.	1.3871
	Santa Cruz, CA	
7490	Santa Fe, NM	1.0451
	Los Alamos, NM	
	Santa Fe, NM	
7500	Santa Rosa, CA	1.3069
	Sonoma, CA	
7510	Sarasota-Bradenton, FL	1.0255
	Sarasota, FL	
75106 ..	Sarasota-Bradenton, FL	1.0017
	Manatee, FL	
7520	Savannah, GA	0.8993
	Bryan, GA	
75206 ..	Savannah, GA	0.9349
	Chatham, GA	

TABLE A.—HOSPICE WAGE INDEX FOR
URBAN AREAS—Continued

MSA code number	Urban area (constituent counties or county equivalents)	Wage index ¹
7560	Effingham, GA Scranton—Wilkes- Barre—Hazleton, PA. Columbia, PA Lackawanna, PA Luzerne, PA Wyoming, PA	0.9364
7600	Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, WA.	1.1225
76006 ..	Island, WA Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, WA.	1.1708
7610	King, WA Snohomish, WA	0.9498
7620	Sharon, PA	0.9000
7640	Mercer, PA Sheboygan, WI	0.9075
7680	Sheboygan, WI Sherman-Denison, TX ...	0.9461
76806 ..	Grayson, TX Shreveport-Bossier City, LA.	1.0263
7720	Webster, LA Shreveport-Bossier City, LA.	0.9205
7760	Bossier, LA Caddo, LA	0.8870
77606 ..	Sioux City, IA—NE	0.9375
7800	Woodbury, IA Dakota, NE	1.0021
7840	Sioux Falls, SD	1.1221
7880	Lincoln, SD Sioux Falls, SD	1.0062
7920	Minnehaha, SD South Bend, IN	0.8469
79206 ..	St. Joseph, IN Spokane, WA	0.8901
8003	Spokane, WA Springfield, IL	1.0923
8050	Menard, IL Sangamon, IL	1.0411
8080	Springfield, MO	0.9438
8120	Webster, MO Springfield, MO	1.2084
8140	Christian, MO Greene, MO	0.8348
8160	Springfield, MA	0.9644
81606 ..	Hampden, MA Hampshire, MA	1.1682
8200	State College, PA	1.1330
8240	Centre, PA Steubenville-Weirton, OH—WV.	0.9401

TABLE A.—HOSPICE WAGE INDEX FOR
URBAN AREAS—Continued

MSA code number	Urban area (constituent counties or county equivalents)	Wage index ¹
8280	Gadsden, FL Leon, FL Tampa-St. Petersburg- Clearwater, FL.	0.9834
8320	Hernando, FL Hillsborough, FL Pasco, FL Pinellas, FL	0.9016
83206 ..	Terre Haute, IN	0.9106
8360	Vermillion, IN Terre Haute, IN	0.9919
8400	Clay, IN Vigo, IN Texarkana, AR—Tex- arkana, TX.	1.1202
8440	Miller, AR Bowie, TX Toledo, OH	1.0468
8480	Fulton, OH Lucas, OH Wood, OH	1.0866
8520	Topeka, KS	0.9950
8560	Shawnee, KS Trenton, NJ	0.9259
8600	Mercer, NJ Tucson, AZ	0.9266
8640	Pima, AZ Tulsa, OK	1.0174
8680	Creek, OK Osage, OK Rogers, OK	0.9124
8720	Tulsa, OK Wagoner, OK Tuscaloosa, AL	1.4234
8735	Tuscaloosa, AL Tyler, TX	1.1819
8750	Smith, TX Utica-Rome, NY	0.8925
8760	Herkimer, NY Oneida, NY	1.0368
8780	Vallejo-Fairfield-Napa, CA.	1.0922
8800	Napa, CA Solano, CA	0.8276
8840	Ventura, CA	1.1581
	Ventura, CA Victoria, TX	
	Victoria, TX Vineland-Millville-Bridge- ton, NJ.	
	Cumberland, NJ Visalia-Tulare-Porter- ville, CA.	
	Tulare, CA Waco, TX	
	McLennan, TX Washington, DC—MD— VA—WV.	
	District of Columbia, DC Calvert, MD Charles, MD	
	Frederick, MD Montgomery, MD Prince Georges, MD	
	Alexandria City, VA Arlington, VA Fairfax, VA	
	Fairfax City, VA Falls Church City, VA	

TABLE A.—HOSPICE WAGE INDEX FOR
URBAN AREAS—Continued

MSA code number	Urban area (constituent counties or county equivalents)	Wage index ¹
88406 ..	Loudoun, VA Manassas City, VA Manassas Park City, VA Prince William, VA Stafford, VA	1.0725
88407 ..	Washington, DC—MD— VA—WV.	1.0494
8920	Berkeley, WV Jefferson, WV Washington, DC—MD— VA—WV.	0.9203
8940	Clarke, VA Culpeper, VA Fauquier, VA Fredericksburg City, VA	1.0607
8960	King George, VA Spotsylvania, VA Warren, VA	1.0658
9000	Waterloo-Cedar Falls, IA Black Hawk, IA Wausau, WI	0.9314
9040	Marathon, WI West Palm Beach-Boca Raton, FL.	0.9399
90406 ..	Palm Beach, FL Wheeling, WV—OH	1.0473
9080	Belmont, OH Marshall, WV Ohio, WV	0.8169
90806 ..	Wichita, KS	0.8376
9140	Harvey, KS Wichita, KS	0.9544
9160	Butler, KS Sedgwick, KS Wichita Falls, TX	1.1851
9200	Wichita Falls, TX	0.9471
92006 ..	Archer, TX Wichita Falls, TX	0.9649
9260	Wichita, TX Williamsport, PA	1.0634
9270	Lycoming, PA Wilmington-Newark, DE—MD.	1.1961
9280	New Castle, DE Cecil, MD	1.0165
9320	Wilmington, NC	1.0124
93206 ..	Brunswick, NC Wilmington, NC	1.0785
9340	New Hanover, NC Yakima, WA	1.0981
9360	Yakima, WA Yolo, CA	0.9912

TABLE A.—HOSPICE WAGE INDEX FOR URBAN AREAS—Continued

MSA code number	Urban area (constituent counties or county equivalents)	Wage index ¹
	Yuma, AZ	

¹Wage index values are based on FY 1997 hospital cost report data prior to reclassification. This wage index is further adjusted. Wage index values greater than 0.8 are subject to a budget neutrality adjustment of 1.04662. Wage index values below 0.8 are adjusted to be the greater of a 15 percent increase, subject to a maximum wage index value of 0.8, or an adjustment by multiplying the hospital wage index value for a given area by the budget neutrality adjustment. All of these adjustments have been completed by HCFA and are built into the wage index values reflected in this table.

TABLE B.—WAGE INDEX FOR RURAL AREAS

MSA code number	Nonurban area	Wage index ²
9901	Alabama	0.8000
99016 ..	Alabama	
9902	Walker, AL	0.8682
9903	Alaska	1.3387
9904	Arizona	0.8696
9905	Arkansas	0.8000
9906	California	1.0488
9907	Colorado	0.8575
	Connecticut	
	Windham, CT	1.2283
	Delaware	
9908	Sussex, DE	0.9372
9910	Florida	0.9209
	Florida	
99106 ..	Bradford, FL	0.9554
9911	Georgia	0.8381
	Georgia	
99116 ..	Butts, GA	0.8700
	Georgia	
99117 ..	Jackson, GA	0.8491
9912	Hawaii	1.1244
9913	Idaho	0.8877
9914	Illinois	0.8363
9915	Indiana	0.8700
9916	Iowa	0.8058
	Iowa	
99166 ..	Bremer, IA	0.8367
9917	Kansas	0.8045
9918	Kentucky	0.8267
	Kentucky	
99186 ..	Shelby, KY	0.9209
9919	Louisiana	0.8119
9920	Maine	0.8934
9921	Maryland	0.9262
9922	Massachusetts	1.0866
9923	Michigan	0.9531
9924	Minnesota	0.8703
9925	Mississippi	0.7972
9926	Missouri	0.8099
9927	Montana	0.8828
9928	Nebraska	0.8000
9929	Nevada	0.9770
9930	New Hampshire	1.0380
9931	New Jersey ¹	
9932	New Mexico	0.8873
9933	New York	0.8902

TABLE B.—WAGE INDEX FOR RURAL AREAS—Continued

MSA code number	Nonurban area	Wage index ²
	New York	
99336 ..	Greene, NY	0.8975
9934	North Carolina	0.8504
9935	North Dakota	0.8109
9936	Ohio	0.9075
	Ohio	
99366 ..	Union, OH	0.9521
9937	Oklahoma	0.8197
9938	Oregon	1.0296
9939	Pennsylvania	0.9479
	Pennsylvania	
99396 ..	Monroe, PA	0.9281
	Pennsylvania	
99397 ..	Adams, PA	0.9471
9940	Puerto Rico	0.5905
9941	Rhode Island ¹	
9942	South Carolina	0.8348
9943	South Dakota	0.8000
9944	Tennessee	0.8000
99446 ..	Tennessee	
	Sequatchie, TN	0.8557
99447 ..	Tennessee	0.8395
	Grainger, TN	
	Jefferson, TN	
9945	Texas	0.8041
9946	Utah	0.9110
9947	Vermont	0.9560
9949	Virginia	0.8402
9950	Washington	1.0445
9951	West Virginia	0.8742
9952	Wisconsin	0.8807
9953	Wyoming	0.9091

¹All counties within the State are classified as urban.

²Wage index values are based on FY 1997 hospital cost report data prior to reclassification. This wage index is further adjusted. Wage index values greater than 0.8 are subject to a budget neutrality adjustment of 1.04662. Wage index values below 0.8 are adjusted to be the greater of a 15 percent increase, subject to a maximum wage index value of 0.8, or an adjustment by multiplying the hospital wage index value for a given area by the budget neutrality adjustment. All of these adjustments have been completed by HCFA and are built into the wage index values reflected in this table.

II. Regulatory Impact Statement

A. Background

We have examined the impacts of this notice as required by Executive Order 12866, the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act, and the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) (Public Law 96-354). In this notice, we identified an impact on hospices as a result of changes in the way we compute the hospice wage index. The change in the methodology for computing the wage index was determined through a negotiated rulemaking committee and implemented in the August 8, 1997 final rule (62 FR 42860). This notice only described the effects of those changes in conjunction with the annual update to

the hospice wage index. Also, we believe these changes to be insignificant.

1. Executive Order 12866 and RFA

Executive Order 12866 directs agencies to assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, when regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public health and safety effects; distributive impacts; and equity). We have determined that this notice is not an economically significant rule under this Executive Order. The RFA requires agencies to analyze options for regulatory relief for small businesses. For purposes of the RFA, States and individuals are not considered small entities. However, most providers, physicians, and health care suppliers are small entities, either by nonprofit status or by having revenues of \$5 million or less annually. Approximately 74 percent of Medicare certified hospices are identified as being voluntary, government, or other agency, and therefore are considered small entities. Because the National Hospice Organization estimates that approximately 65 percent of hospice patients are Medicare beneficiaries, we have not considered other sources of revenue in this analysis.

As discussed below, payments to urban hospices in Puerto Rico will experience the most significant decrease (11.6 percent) in payments under this wage index. Looking at the effects of this rule on Puerto Rico, we see that 21 of the 29 hospices in urban Puerto Rico can be considered small entities that will experience an 11.6 percent decrease in Medicare payments. Therefore, we anticipate this rule will have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. However, the methodology for the hospice wage index was previously determined by consensus through a negotiated rulemaking committee that included representatives of national hospice associations; rural, urban, large and small hospices; multi-site hospices; and consumer groups. Based on all of the options considered, the committee determined that the methodology described in the committee statement, and adopted into regulation on August 8, 1997 (62 FR 42860), were favorable for the hospice community as a whole, as well as for the beneficiaries that they serve. Therefore, we believe that mitigating the effects of small entities has been taken into consideration.

2. Congressional Review

Section 804(2) of Title 5, United States Code (as added by section 251 of Public Law 104-121), specifies that a "major rule" is any rule that the Office of Management and Budget finds is likely to result in—

- An annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more;
- A major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, or local government agencies, or geographic regions; or
- Significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or on the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises in domestic and export markets.

We estimate that the impact of this notice will not be \$100 million or more; therefore, this rule is not a major rule as defined in Title 5, United States Code, section 804(2) and is not being forwarded to Congress for a 60-day review period.

3. Unfunded Mandate

The Unfunded Mandate Reform Act of 1995 also requires (in section 202) that agencies prepare an assessment of anticipated costs and benefits for any rule that may result in an annual expenditure by State, local, and tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of \$100 million or more. The notice has no consequential effect on State, local, or tribal governments. We believe the private sector costs of this rule fall below the threshold, as well.

4. Rural Hospital Impact

Section 1102(b) of the Act requires us to prepare a regulatory impact analysis for any notice that may have a significant impact on the operations of a substantial number of small rural hospitals. Such an analysis must conform to the provisions of section 604 of the RFA. For purposes of section 1102(b) of the Act, we define a small rural hospital as a hospital that is located outside a Metropolitan Statistical Area and has fewer than 50 beds.

Because this notice has no direct impact on small hospitals, in

accordance with 5 U.S.C. 604, the Secretary certifies that this notice will not have a significant impact on the operations of a substantial number of small rural hospitals.

B. Anticipated Effects

In accordance with the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (BBA of 1997), hospices are now paid for home care services based on where the service is rendered. This change was effective with FY 1998 and was implemented on October 1, 1997. This impact analysis compares hospice payments under the FY 1998 wage index (Column 4 of the table) to the second transition year blend (Column 5). The wage index blend for the second transition year of the 3-year transition is one-third of the 1983 wage index added to two-thirds of the new wage index. The data used in developing the quantitative analysis for this notice were obtained from the December 1997 update of the national claims history file of all bills submitted during fiscal year 1997. We deleted bills from hospices that have since closed.

Table C demonstrates the results of our analysis. In Column 2 of the table we indicate the number of routine home care days that were included in our analysis, although the analysis was performed on all types of hospice care. Column 3 of Table C (below) indicates payments that were made using the FY 1998 wage index. Column 5 of Table C is based on FY 1998 claims and estimates payments to be made to hospices using the FY 1999 wage index. For the purposes of this analysis, the payments reflected in Column 3 were adjusted to account for the site of service provision. This adjustment is shown in Column 4 of Table C.

The final column, which compares Columns 4 and 5, shows the percent change in estimated hospice payments made based on the category of the hospice. The overall percentage change in hospice payments is 0.2 percent. However, the wage index itself is budget neutral to what would have been paid using the 1983 wage index. The 0.2 percent is attributable to the site of service provision, i.e., the effect on payments resulting from the distribution of beneficiaries residing in MSAs with different wage index values than the hospice.

Table C categorizes hospices by various geographic and provider characteristics. The top row of the table demonstrates the neutral overall payment impact on 2,133 hospices included in the analysis. The next two rows of the table categorize hospices according to their geographic location (urban and rural). There are 1,385 hospices located in urban areas included in our analysis and 748 hospices located in rural areas. The next two groupings in the table indicate the number of hospices by census region, also broken down by urban and rural hospices. The next grouping shows the impact on hospices based on the size of the hospice's program. We determined that the majority of hospice payments are made at the routine home care rate. Therefore, we based the size of each individual hospice's program on the number of routine home care days provided in 1997. The next grouping shows the impact on hospices by type of ownership. The final grouping shows the impact on hospices defined by whether they are provider-based or freestanding.

The results of our analysis show that the greatest increases are for urban and rural hospices in the New England region, 4.5 percent and 2.8 percent respectively, and for rural hospices in the Pacific regions, with 3.8 percent. The greatest decreases, besides Puerto Rico, are the rural West North Central and rural West South Central regions with 3.1 percent and 4.0 percent respectively. The most dramatic shift occurs in Puerto Rico, where urban payments decrease by 11.6 percent and rural payments decrease by 12.3 percent. Since the wage index values for the Puerto Rico region are more than 15 percent below the 1983 wage index value of 0.8, this region is most affected by the revision to the wage index floor.

Small hospice programs show small decreases while larger programs show slight increases. Proprietary hospices show slight decreases in payment due to the wage index change while voluntary programs gain slightly. Finally, freestanding hospices show no percent change in their wage index values while provider-based hospice programs show small increases.

TABLE C.—IMPACT OF HOSPICE WAGE INDEX CHANGE

	Number of hospices	Number of routine home care days in thousands	Payments using FY '98 wage index in thousands	Estimated payments using FY '98 wage index w/ SOS* in thousands	Estimated payments using FY '99 wage index w/ SOS* in thousands	Percent change in hospice payments**
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
All	2,133	19,944	2,211,336	2,195,009	2,200,107	0.2
Urban Hospices	1,385	16,148	11,868,369	1,849,873	1,855,939	0.3
Rural Hospices	748	3,795	342,967	345,136	344,168	-0.3
Region (Urban):						
New England	102	568	72,785	72,694	75,979	4.5
Middle Atlantic	176	1,849	226,264	225,095	228,443	1.5
South Atlantic	182	3,825	445,473	443,033	445,646	0.6
East North Central	224	2,599	300,801	297,570	296,812	-0.3
East South Central	89	770	83,503	81,985	81,082	-1.1
West North Central	99	937	96,630	94,617	94,224	-0.4
West South Central	197	2,373	249,586	243,893	240,371	-1.4
Mountain	88	887	114,857	113,848	113,010	-0.7
Pacific	199	2,145	263,250	261,968	266,963	1.9
Puerto Rico	29	194	15,221	15,169	13,410	-11.6
Region (Rural):						
New England	21	63	6,341	6,358	6,536	2.8
Middle Atlantic	34	261	25,759	25,838	25,384	-1.8
South Atlantic	115	549	49,985	50,658	50,932	0.5
East North Central	121	442	40,906	41,264	41,511	0.6
East South Central	76	1,452	124,526	124,784	125,167	0.3
West North Central	164	399	36,089	36,241	35,127	-3.1
West South Central	82	255	22,474	22,926	21,999	-4.0
Mountain	80	175	16,739	16,806	16,831	0.1
Pacific	52	185	19,122	19,229	19,773	2.8
Puerto Rico	3	13	1,028	1,034	907	-12.3
Size (Routine Home Care Days):						
0-1,752 Days	533	417	48,237	48,051	47,757	-0.6
1,753-4,225 Days	533	1,524	152,653	151,925	151,578	-0.2
4,226-9,422 Days	533	3,420	352,974	351,698	352,436	0.2
9,422+ Days	534	14,583	1,657,472	1,643,334	1,648,336	0.3
Type of Ownership:						
Voluntary	1,373	13,516	1,492,335	1,483,835	1,492,700	0.6
Proprietary	560	5,876	664,169	656,650	653,129	-0.5
Government	172	474	47,067	46,818	46,550	-0.6
Other	28	78	7,766	7,705	7,727	0.3
Hospice Base:						
Freestanding	793	11,495	1,272,781	1,263,013	1,263,114	0.0
Home Health Agency	788	5,235	581,863	577,857	581,728	0.7
Hospital	533	3,123	344,200	341,727	342,789	0.3
Skilled Nursing Facility	19	91	12,492	12,411	12,476	0.5

*The FY 1997 data used to construct the FY 1998 wage index was adjusted to account for the site of service provision that was included in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

**Percent change in hospice payments made from 1997, taking into account the site of service change.

Authority: Section 1814(I) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395f(I)(1)) (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.773 Medicare—Hospital Insurance Program; and No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplementary Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: July 7, 1998.

Nancy-Ann Min DeParle,
Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration.

Dated: August 4, 1998.

Donna E. Shalala,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request: National Institutes of Health Construction Grants

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Office of the Director (OD), Office of Extramural Research (OER), Office of Policy for Extramural Research Administration (OPERA) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a

request to review and approve a revision of the information collection listed below. This information was previously published in the **Federal Register** on June 2, 1998 (63 FR 30005) and allowed 60 days for public comments. No public comments were received. The purpose of this notice is to allow an additional 30 days for public comments. The National Institutes of Health may not conduct or sponsor, and the respondent is not required to respond to, an information collection that has been extended, revised, or implemented on or after October 1, 1995, unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.