

South Carolina
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Post Office Box 8206
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www.scdhhs.gov
June 26, 2009

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MEDICAID BULLETIN

TO: Hospice Providers

SUBJECT: Revised Wage Index on Fiscal Year 2009 Medicaid Hospice Rates

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Tax Act of 2009 requires revisions to the hospice wage index previously published in the Federal Register on August 8, 2008. The hospice wage index has been revised to eliminate the reduction for the Budget Neutrality Adjustment Factor, which had begun to be phased out over a three-year period, beginning in Fiscal Year 2009. The revised wage index is published on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services website, at the following link:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Hospice/downloads/FY2009HospiceWI_ARRA.pdf.

Due to the change, Medicaid hospice rates will be revised retroactive to October 1, 2008. Fiscal Year 2009 claims paid prior to **June 30, 2009**, will be adjusted according to the new rates determined by the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. You will be notified of the adjustment amount on a later date. All hospice claims submitted on or after July 1, 2009, may be submitted with the revised rates. The revised rates will be mailed to you prior to June 30, 2009.

Thank you for your continued support and participation in the Medicaid program. If you questions concerning this bulletin, please contact the Department of Facility Services at (803) 898-2590.

/S/
Emma Forkner
Director

EF/mwhk

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To sign up for Electronic Funds Transfer of your Medicaid payment, please go to <http://www.dhhs.state.sc.us/dhhsnew/hipaa/index.asp> and select "Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) for instructions.