

Supplemental Instructions for the Medicare Wage Index Occupational Mix Survey (Form CMS-10079 (2006)) for the FY 2007 Wage Index

The following are clarifications to the survey instructions and definitions:

1. Medical Assistants are nursing employees for purposes of the occupational mix survey. Whenever the terms “nursing staff”, “nursing personnel”, “nursing occupations”, nursing employees, or “nursing categories” are used with regards to the occupational mix survey, they are deemed to include medical assistants.
2. Do not include salaries and hours for nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, nurse midwives, or certified registered nurse anesthetists in any of the nursing or All Other Occupations categories. These nurses, also known as advanced practice nurses, are excluded from the wage index because they are not paid under the hospital inpatient prospective payment system (IPPS).
3. Only nursing employees assigned to the cost centers listed on pages 2 and 3 of the survey can be included in the RNs-Management, RNs-Staff/Clinician, LPNs, Aides/Orderlies/Attendants, and MAs categories. These cost centers reflect where the majority of nursing employees are assigned in hospitals and were selected to ensure consistent reporting among hospitals. Nursing employees assigned to IPPS/OPPS cost centers other than those listed must be included in All Other Occupations.
4. Only nurses, nurses aides/orderlies/attendants, and medical assistants, as defined on the survey, can be included in the respective RNs-Management, RNs-Staff/Clinician, LPNs, Aides/Orderlies/Attendants, and MAs categories. Do not include other occupations that may provide similar services as nursing personnel. Instead, those occupations (if assigned to IPPS/OPPS areas of the hospital) must be included in the All Other Occupations category. For example, surgical technicians and hospital-based paramedics may provide services that are similar to those provided by nursing personnel; however, on the occupational mix survey, these non-nursing occupations must be included in All Other Occupations. This is to ensure consistent reporting among hospitals.
5. On-call hours for the occupational mix survey must be treated the same as on-call hours for Worksheet S-3 wage data (see Provider Reimbursement Manual, Part II, section 3605.2, column 4 instructions).