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# Medicare Updates for 2026

2025 HFMA Texas State Conference

May 18, 2025

# Learning Agenda

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# Medicare Reimbursement Landscape

# Ways and Means Committee Potential Savings

## Select Health Reconciliation Items<sup>(1)</sup>

Est maximum amount of federal savings over a 10-year period

Improve Uncompensated Care	\$229 billion
Medicare Site Neutrality	\$146 billion
Eliminate Medicare Bad Debt	\$42 billion
Geographic Integrity in Medicare Wage Index	\$15 billion
Prevent Dual Reclassifications Under Medicare	\$10 billion
Reform Medicare GME Payments	\$10 billion
Eliminate Inpatient-Only List	\$10 billion

<sup>(1)</sup>Does not include reductions to Medicaid as discussed in the Energy & Commerce Committee “Health” Section [Ways and Means Reconciliation List](#).

<sup>(2)</sup> Does not include [May 11th Energy and Commerce Bill](#) on Stopping Abusive Financing Practices (Subpart C).

# Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation of the Medicare Program

## Executive Order 14192

### Streamlining regulations and reducing administrative burdens

For providers, suppliers, beneficiaries, Medicare Advantage and Part D plans and other Medicare Stakeholders

CMS to identify at least 10 existing regulations to be repealed

RFI cites redundancies and burdens related to:

- Conditions of Participation (CoPs) and Conditions for Coverage (CFC)
- Quality and value-based purchasing programs (VBP)

# Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation of the Medicare Program

## Executive Order 14192

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### **Highlights of RFI Questions:**

- Which specific Medicare administrative processes or quality and data reporting requirements create the most significant burdens for providers?
- Are there specific Medicare administrative processes, quality, or data reporting requirements, that could be automated or simplified to reduce the administrative burden on facilities and providers?
- Are there opportunities to reduce the frequency or complexity of reporting for Medicare providers?
- Are there documentation or reporting requirements within the Medicare program that are overly complex or redundant?

# Proposed FFY26 IPPS Rate Setting

# Focus Areas

**1**

## Focus Area 1

When necessary, timely file applications and requests to Medicare and project financial impact

**2**

## Focus Area 2

- Implement processes and strategic decisions to compliantly optimize reimbursement
- Develop comments

**3**

## Focus Area 3

Identify significant areas of the Proposed Rule impacting Medicare cost reporting and related reimbursement



# Comments to CMS

- Comments are due to CMS no later than **5p.m. EDT on Tuesday, June 10, 2025**
- In commenting, please refer to file code CMS-18833-P
- The electronic comment form for CMS-1808-P may be accessed [here](#) (Follow the instructions under the “submit a comment” tab).
- Comments may also be submitted by regular mail<sup>(1)</sup> to:  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Attention: CMS-1808-P  
P.O. Box 8013  
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850



<sup>(1)</sup>CMS lists a separate address for overnight mail in the FFY26 IPPS Proposed Rule.

# FFY26 Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) Payment Changes from FFY25



## Notable **increases**:

- \$1.5 billion  
Additional Uncompensated Care Disproportionate Share Hospital (UC DSH) payments
- \$234 million  
Continuation of New Technology Add-On Payments (NTAP)

## Notable **decreases**:

- **-\$500 million**  
Low Volume Adjustment (LVA) changes  
Expiration of Medicare Dependent Hospital (MDH) status  
*Will there continue to be enacting legislation?<sup>(2)</sup>*

<sup>(1)</sup> As projected by CMS in the [FFY2026 IPPS Proposed Rule](#).

<sup>(2)</sup> Over the past several years, the LVA and MDH programs were temporality extended by enacting legislation. [Public Law 119 - 4 - Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025](#) last extended the MDH program through September 30, 2025.

# Estimated FFY26 IPPS Payments by State

## Ten Largest Changes from FFY25

State	Est. FFY26 Proposed IPPS Payments	% Change from FFY25	% Change from FFY24
CO	\$1,444,200,000	7.28%	9.62%
UT	\$703,100,000	6.77%	7.82%
ID	\$458,700,000	6.72%	7.55%
NE	\$812,900,000	6.10%	6.64%
TX	\$8,444,800,000	5.62%	7.99%
DE	\$529,400,000	5.61%	6.16%
WA	\$2,251,200,000	5.03%	6.85%
MN	\$1,995,800,000	4.93%	6.08%
GA	\$3,122,600,000	4.89%	5.75%
MS	\$1,082,600,000	4.70%	3.28%
<b>National</b>	<b>\$122,134,800,000</b>	<b>2.54%</b>	<b>4.08%</b>

# Estimated FFY26 IPPS Payments by State

## Ten Smallest Changes from FFY25

State	Est. FFY26 Proposed IPPS Payments	% Change from FFY25	% Change from FFY24
CA	\$14,248,000,000	1.19%	-1.14%
AZ	\$2,417,100,000	1.01%	4.55%
NY	\$10,162,400,000	0.68%	-0.10%
DC	\$610,100,000	0.02%	13.00%
NV	\$1,062,300,000	0.01%	-2.45%
IL	\$4,968,800,000	-0.03%	3.73%
MA	\$4,393,600,000	-0.34%	5.94%
OK	\$1,451,800,000	-0.45%	2.74%
IN	\$2,384,500,000	-0.78%	8.88%
CT	\$1,591,700,000	-1.35%	1.04%
<b>National</b>	<b>\$122,134,800,000</b>	<b>2.54%</b>	<b>4.08%</b>

# IPPS Market Basket Trend

Adjustments	FFY 2026 Proposed Rule	FFY 2025 Final Rule	FFY 2025 Proposed Rule	FFY 2024 Final Rule	FFY 2024 Proposed Rule
Market Basket	3.20%	3.40%	3.00%	3.30%	3.00%
ACA Productivity Adjustment	-0.80%	-0.50%	-0.40%	-0.20%	-0.20%
<b>Net Update</b>	<b>2.40%</b>	<b>2.90%</b>	<b>2.60%</b>	<b>3.10%</b>	<b>2.80%</b>
Budget Neutrality Changes	0.79%	-0.95%	-0.01%	-1.19%	-0.46%
<b>Operating Rate Change from Prior Year</b>	<b>3.19%</b>	<b>1.95%</b>	<b>2.59%</b>	<b>1.91%</b>	<b>2.34%</b>

See Addendum A for FFY2026 IPPS operating rates.

See Addendum B for the FFY26 proposed market basket for other provider types.

# IPPS Budget Neutrality Adjustments

## Applied to the Standard Operating Rate<sup>(1)</sup>

Description	FFY26 Proposed	FFY25 Final	FFY25 Proposed	FFY24 Final	FFY 24 Proposed
Labor After Removing PY BNFs	\$4,499.73	\$4,385.87	\$4,385.87	\$4,245.11	\$4,245.11
Non-Labor After Removing PY BNFs	\$2,757.90	\$2,688.11	\$2,688.11	\$2,601.81	\$2,601.84
<b>Update and BNFs</b>					
Updated Factor	1.0240	1.0290	1.0260	1.0310	1.0270
MS-DRG Reclass and Recalib. BNF Before Cap	0.9984	0.9972	0.9971	1.0015	1.0014
Cap Policy MS-DRG Weight BNF	0.9999	0.9999	0.9996	0.9999	0.9999
Wage Index BNF	1.0013	1.0000	1.0000	1.0007	1.0009
Reclassification BNF	0.9770	0.9628	0.9768	0.9713	0.9810
Lowest Quartile BNF <sup>(2)</sup>	0.9997	1.0000	0.9975	0.9974	0.9974
Cap Policy Wage Index BNF	0.9931	0.9992	0.9972	0.9996	0.9966
RCH Demonstration BNF	0.9995	0.9998	0.9995	0.9995	0.9996
Operating Outlier Factor	0.9490	0.9490	0.9490	0.9490	0.9490
<b>CY BNFs</b>	<b>0.9418</b>	<b>0.9364</b>	<b>0.9423</b>	<b>0.9490</b>	<b>0.9530</b>
<b>Labor w BNFs</b>	<b>\$4,237.99</b>	<b>\$4,107.12</b>	<b>\$4,132.98</b>	<b>\$4,028.62</b>	<b>\$4,045.46</b>
<b>Non-Labor w BNFs</b>	<b>\$2,597.48</b>	<b>\$2,517.26</b>	<b>\$2,533.11</b>	<b>\$2,469.12</b>	<b>\$2,479.48</b>
<b>Change from Prior Year</b>	<b>3.19%</b>	<b>1.95%</b>	<b>2.59%</b>	<b>1.91%</b>	<b>2.34%</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> Full rate updates of providers with wage index less than or equal to one (1.0000).

<sup>(2)</sup> In FFY26, CMS proposes transitional wage index for hospitals with a wage index below the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile.

# FFY26 IPPS Rates

## Labor and Non-Labor Share

- Hospitals with WIFs > 1.0000: CMS proposes to reduce the labor share to 66% (from 66.7%)
- Wages and wage-related labor costs are rebased using a 2023 cost report data<sup>(1)</sup>
  - Wages and Salaries
  - Employee Benefits
  - Labor related professional Fees
  - Administrative and Facilities Support Services
  - Installation, Maintenance and Repair Services
  - All Other

WIF > 1 (full update)

\$4,511.41 66% Labor

2,324.06 34% Non-Labor

\$6,835.47 Total (unadjusted for WIF<sup>(2)</sup>)

WIF ≤ 1 (full update)

\$4,237.99 62% Labor

2,597.48 38% Non-Labor

\$6,835.47 Total (unadjusted for WIF<sup>(2)</sup>)

<sup>(1)</sup>See FFY IPPS Proposed Rule Table IV-01-Major Cost Categories as Derived from the Medicare Cost Reports.

<sup>(2)</sup>Hospital Wage Index Factor (WIF) multiplied against the labor portion of the rate.

# Request for Market Basket Increase

## Recommended Comment to CMS

### Increase Proposed FY26 Market Basket by at Least 1%

- [MedPAC's Draft Recommendations for 2026](#) and [March 2025 Report to Congress](#) include recommendations for an additional 1% to the market-basket.
- [MedPAC's March 2023 Report to Congress](#) highlights that CMS's market basket updates in prior years are understated.
  - For instance, the FFY 2022 hospital price increase was 3% higher than the market basket applied by CMS.
- Consider rebasing the Medicare Hospital Specific Rate (HSR) for Sole Community Hospitals and Medicare Dependent Hospitals (MDH).





27 DRGs Increase by 10% or more from FFY25

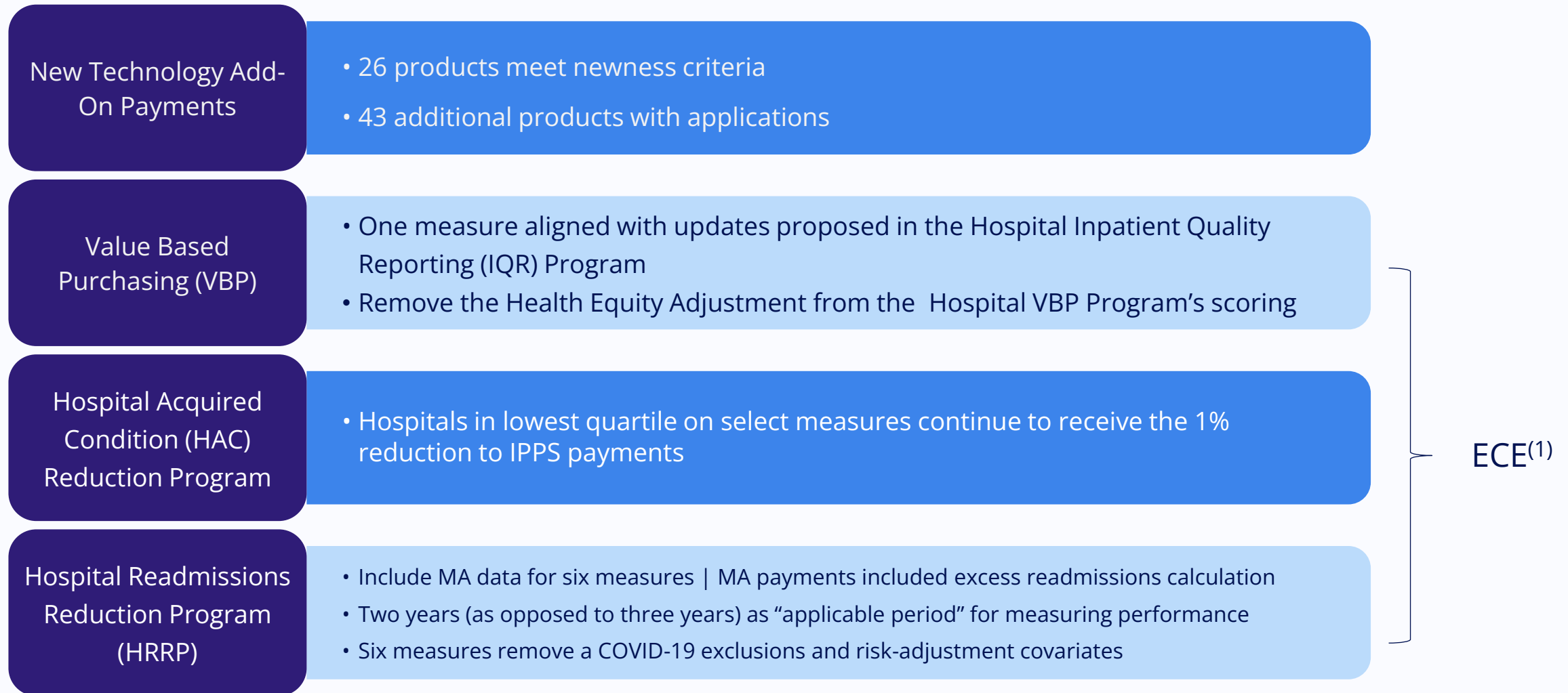


31 DRGs Held Harmless at 10% Decrease from FFY25

# MS-DRG Weights

See Addendum C for listing of MS-DRGS

# FFY26 IPPS Payment Adjustments



<sup>(1)</sup>Extraordinary Circumstances Exception (ECE) policy clarifying CMS has the discretion to grant an extension, rather than only an exception, in response to ECE requests.

# FFY26 IPPS Payment Adjustments

## Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program

- EHR reporting period as any continuous 180-day period within respective CY
- Security Risk Analysis measure to attest “Yes” for security risk management
- Safety Assurance Factors for EHR Resilience (SAFER) Guides requiring to attest “Yes” for an annual self-assessment
- Optional bonus measure for data exchange with a public health agency (PHA)

### Request For Information

- Future modifications to the Query of Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)
- Objectives and measures moving toward performance-based reporting
- Improvements in quality and completeness of the health information exchanging across systems

# FFY26 IPPS Payment Adjustments

## Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program



In FFY26, CMS -

1. Requests comments on measure concepts for future years
2. Proposes to modify four and remove four current quality measures
3. Applies clarified ECE policy

# FFY26 IPPS Payment Adjustments

Medicare Dependent Hospital (MDH)  
Status

Low Volume Adjustment<sup>(1)</sup>  
Enhanced criteria set to expire 12/31/25

[Change Request  
13949 \(Transmittal  
13035\)](#)

77 FR 53404 through  
53405 discusses  
MDHs applying for  
Sole Community  
Hospital (SCH) status

**From:** More than 15  
miles

**To:** More than 25  
miles

(road miles from  
another subsection  
(d) hospital)

**From:** Less than  
3,800 discharges

**To:** Hospitals with  
less than less than  
200 discharges

(Total discharges  
from Most recent  
MCR Cost Report)

**From:** 500 total  
discharges receive  
maximum 25%  
adjustment

**To:** Empirically  
justifiable adjustment  
methodology

<sup>(1)</sup>Hospitals have until September 1, 2025, to request low volume status for FFY26.

# Reminder

## Update to Outlier Reconciliation for IPPS/LTCH PPS

### Changes Effective

Cost Reporting Periods beginning on or after October 1, 2024

### Current Criteria

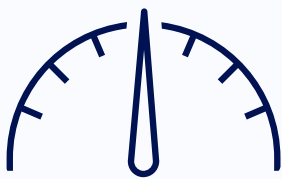
- Actual operating cost-to-charge ratio (CCR) is +/- 10 percentage points or more from the CCR used to make outlier payments, and
- Sum of operating and capital outlier payments in that cost reporting period exceed \$500,000

### Revised Criteria

- Actual operating CCR is **+/- 20 percent** or more from the CCR used to make outlier payments
- Sum of operating and capital outlier payments in that cost reporting period exceed \$500,000

# Wage Index

# Area Wage Index Factors (AWI)

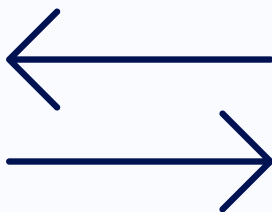


AWI<sup>(1)</sup>

$$AWI = \frac{CBSA^{(2)} AHW}{National AHW \times RFBNF^{(3)}}$$

National AHW x's RFBNF<sup>(3)</sup>

- A CBSA's AHW must increase at a greater rate than the national AHW to increase its AWI



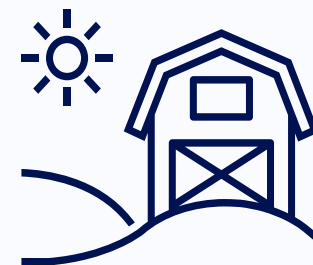
Hospitals that reclassify into another CBSA can:

- Decrease the AWI - Applied only to reclassified hospitals;
- or
- Increase the AWI - Applied to all hospitals (core and reclassified hospitals)



No hospital's AWI can decrease more than 5% from the previous federal year

In FFY26, CMS proposes transitional wage index for hospitals with a wage index below the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile



No hospital can receive an AWI less than its statewide rural wage index ("rural floor")

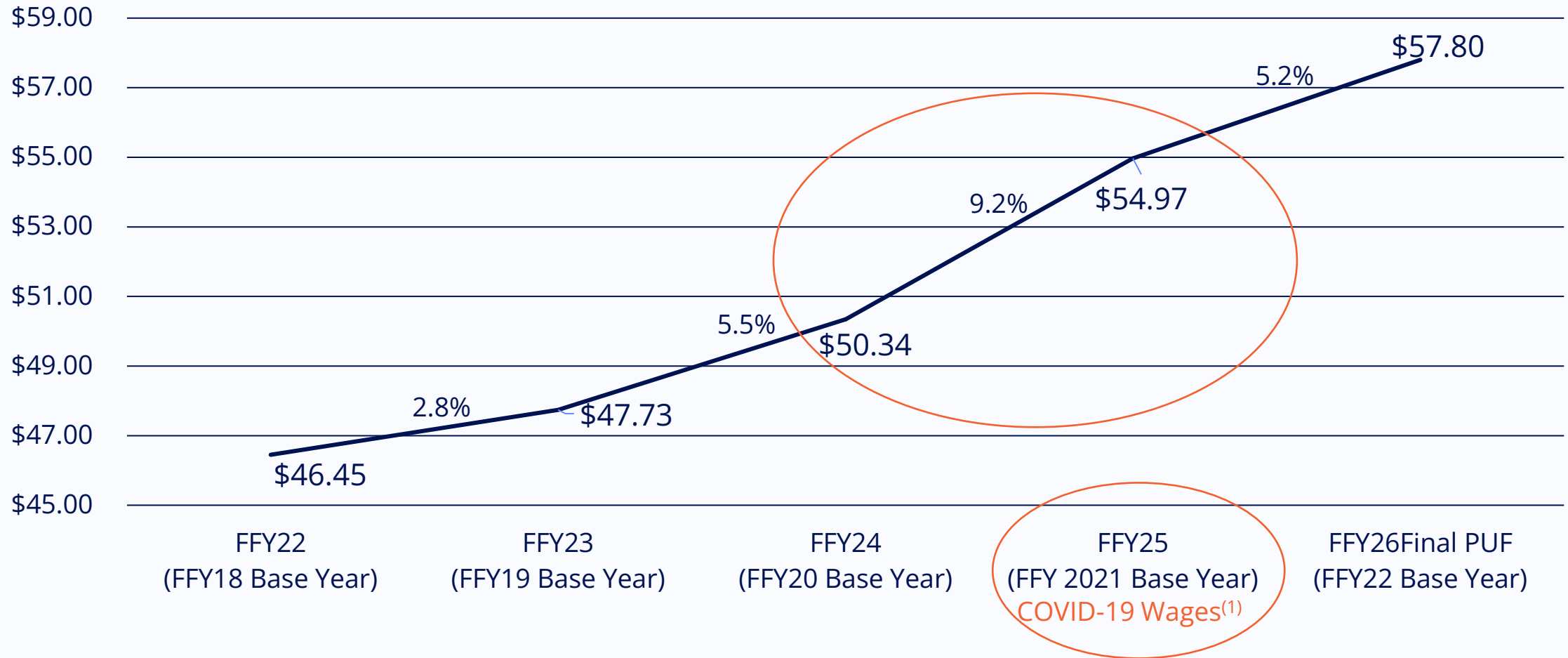
<sup>(1)</sup>Area Wage Index (AWI)

<sup>(2)</sup>Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA)

<sup>(3)</sup>Rural Floor Budget Neutrality Factor (RFBNF)



# National AHW Trend



<sup>(1)</sup>Certain MACs began disallowing nursing contract labor with "all-inclusive" contracts in FFY25.

# Rural Floor AWIs

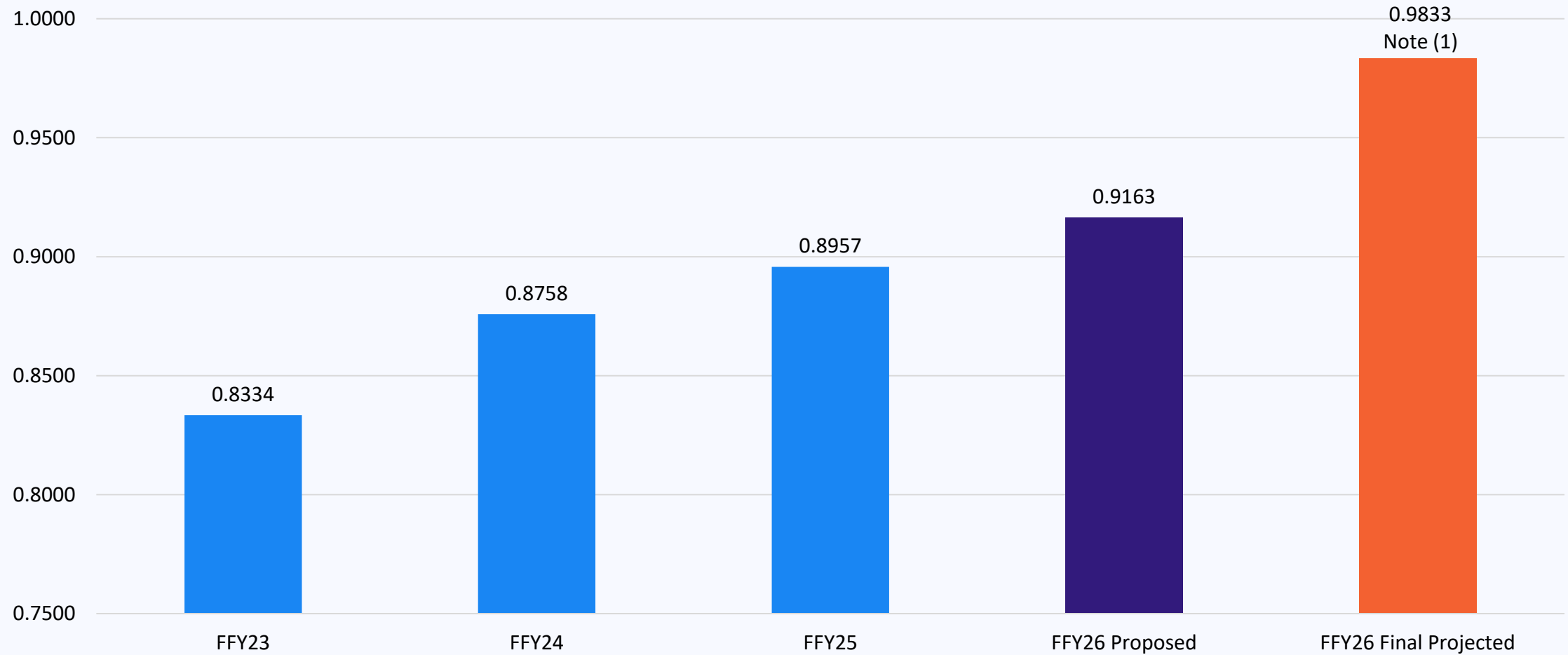
## FFY 2024 IPPS Final Rule

CMS changes interpretation of section 1886(d)(8)(E) of the Act<sup>(1)</sup>

- The rural floor hold harmless formula provides hospitals the highest rural wage index value, considering the data of geographically rural hospitals and rural redesignated hospitals (42 CFR 412.103)
- **In FFY24 CMS changed the formula to account for “dual reclass” hospitals**
  - These are hospitals redesignated rural under 42 CFR 412.103 with MGCRB wage index reclassifications
- In the updated formula, the AHW data of “dual reclass” hospitals is excluded when the result is in an increase to a state’s rural AWI

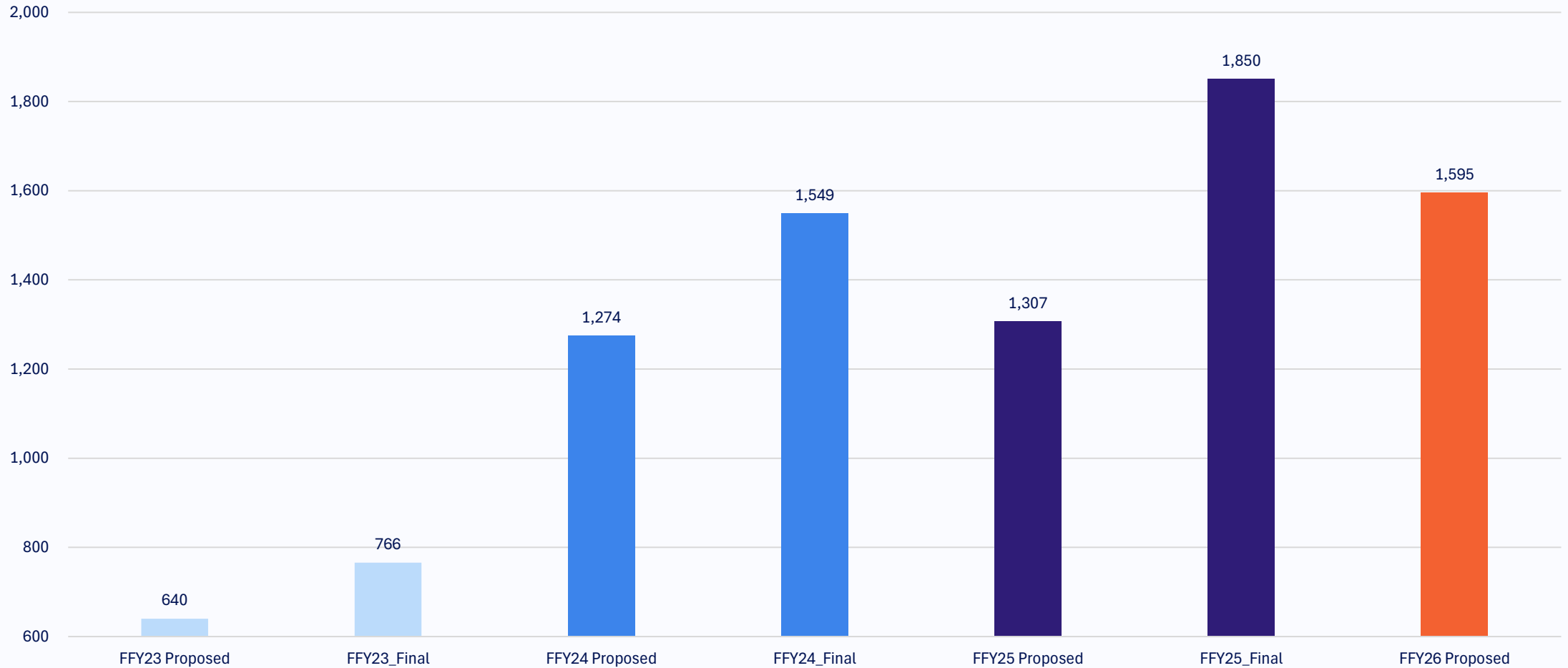
<sup>(1)</sup> § 412.103 reclassification functions the same as if the reclassifying hospital had physically relocated into a geographically rural area.”...(CMS) influenced by the fact that courts have largely adopted this interpretation of section 1886(d)(8)(E) of the Act, and that it requires considerable resources to unwind a wage index policy after adverse judicial decisions\*—often requiring an Interim Final Rule with Comment Period (IFC) outside the usual IPPS rulemaking schedule.” - Citrus HMA, LLC, d/b/a Seven Rivers Regional Medical Center v. Becerra, No. 1:20-cv-00707 (D.D.C.), Deaconess Hospital Inc. v. Becerra, No. 1:22-cv-03136 (D.D.C. Oct. 14, 2022)

# Texas Rural Floor



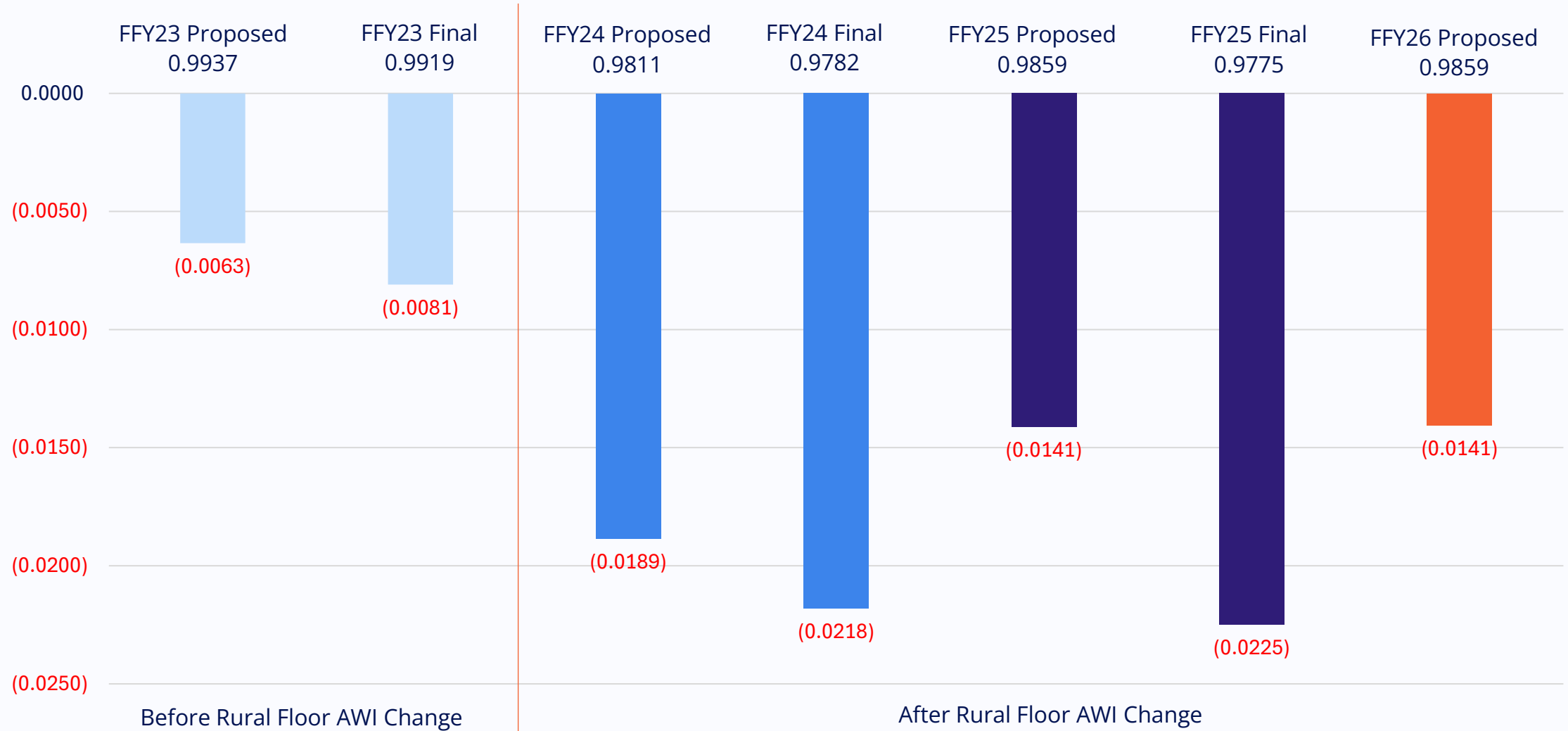
(1) Based on Toyon estimates from the Final FFY26 PUF and subject to change.

# IPPS Rural Floor Wage Index Recipients



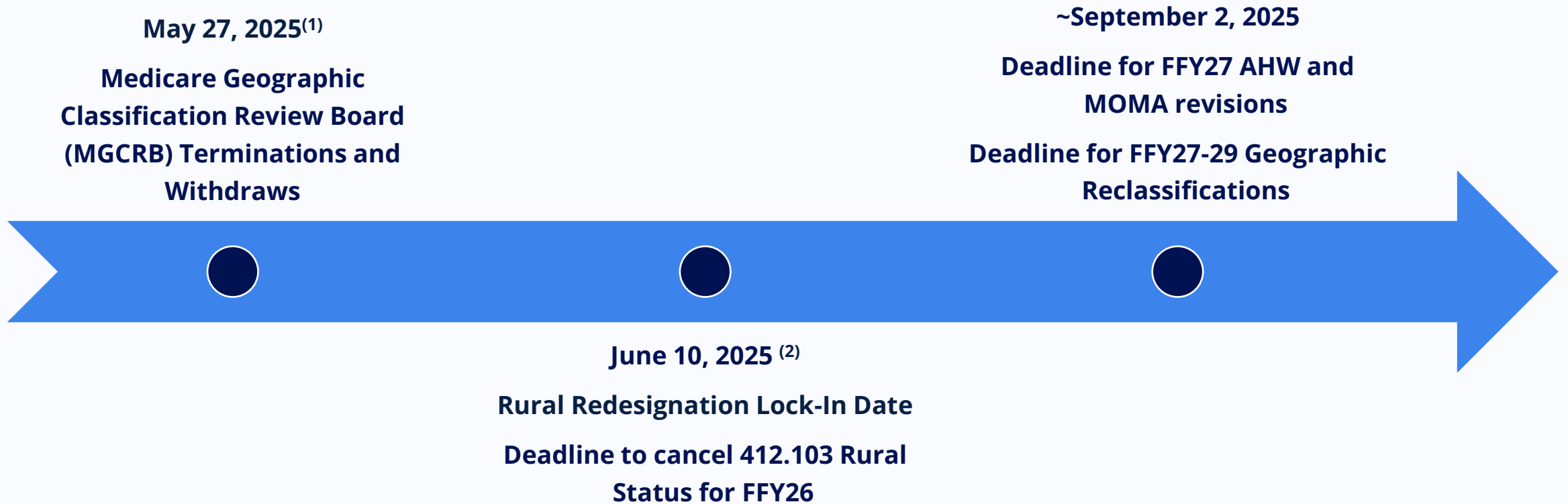
Per Table 2 of the respective Rule. In the FFY26 IPPS Proposed Rule, there are 3,259 acute care hospitals receiving IPPS payments (including Puerto Rico). See Addendum D for additional trends of hospital reclassifications and redesignations.

# IPPS Rural Floor Budget Neutrality Factor



Per Table 2 of the respective Rule. In the FFY26 IPPS Proposed Rule, there are 3,259 acute care hospitals receiving IPPS payments (including Puerto Rico). See Addendum D for additional trends of hospital reclassifications and redesignations.

# Important Dates for the FFY26 Wage Index



<sup>(1)</sup>Reclassified hospitals are not eligible to receive an out-migration factor adjustment, so hospitals that are expected to receive a rural floor wage index (imputed or Statewide rural floor) should consider reclassification withdrawal to secure an outmigration adjustment.

<sup>(2)</sup> 45 days of the public display of the annual notice of proposed rulemaking on the website of the Office of the Federal Register, or within 7 calendar days of receiving a decision of the Administrator in accordance with § 412.278 of this part, whichever is later.

# DSH and Uncompensated Care

# Proposed FFY26 UC DSH Payments



## **FY26 Proposed:**

\$7.2 billion



## **\$1.5 billion increase:**

(25%) from FY25

Increase to TX DSH  
hospitals of \$351M (31%)



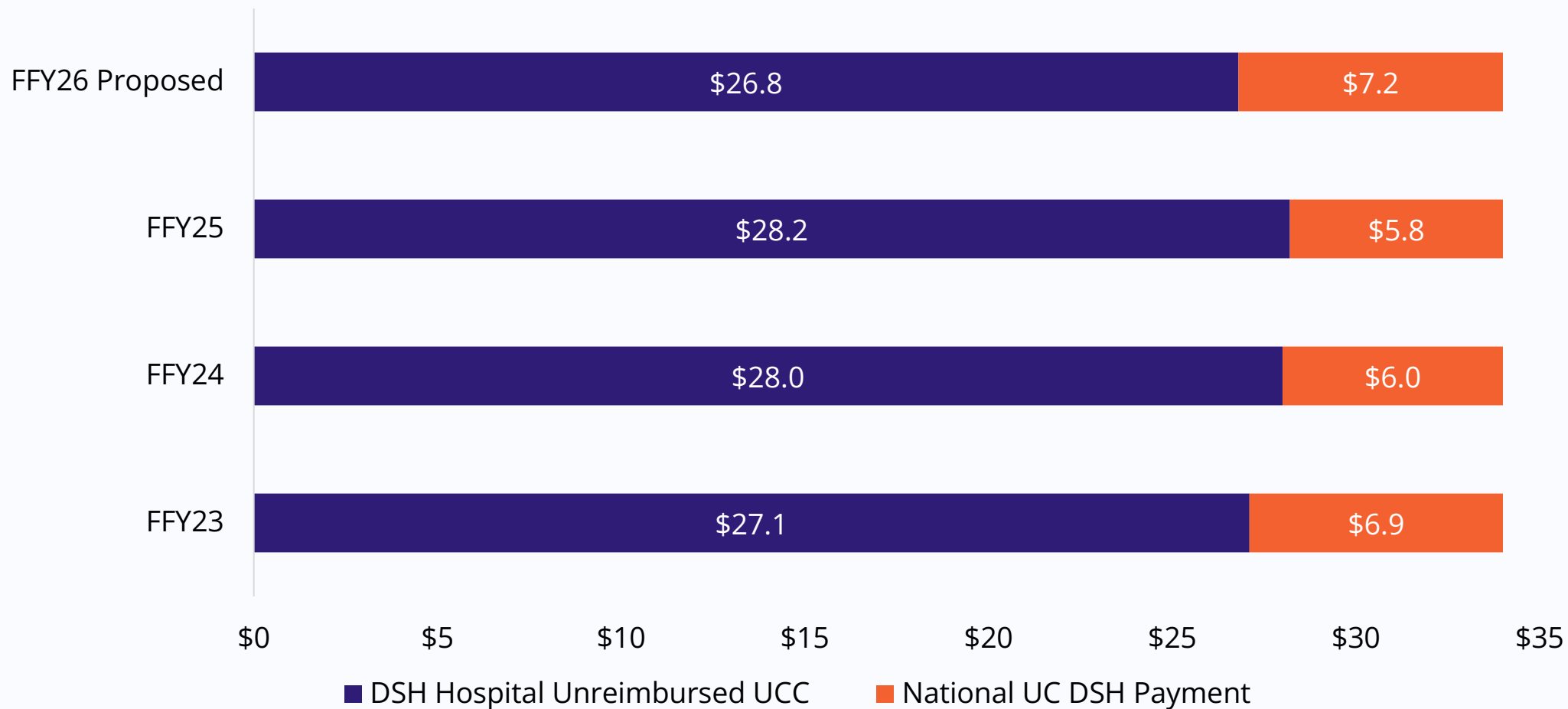
**Will it stick?**



# Trend of Unreimbursed UC Cost

## Dollars in Billions

Significant Gap Between UC Costs and National UC DSH Payments Remains



# Adjustment Factors

**1****Factor 1**

Hypothetical pre-ACA empirical DSH payments.

Starting Point are est. FFY 2022 empirical DSH payments and updated with FY 2023 through FY 2026 factors:

- Market Basket
- Discharge Update
- CMI
- "Other"

75% of Factor 1 is applied towards Factor 2.

**2****Factor 2**

Measures percentage change in uninsured pre and post ACA.

The pre-ACA uninsured rate of 14% from CY 2013 is used as a baseline each year.

Data source: [National Health Expenditure Accounts](#) (NHEA)

FFY26 uses a [June 12, 2024 report](#) using 2022 data for 2023 through 2032 projections.

# Trend of Proposed vs. Final Payments

## Dollars in Billions

	A	B	C	D=A+C	E=D*.75	F	G	H	I = E+H
Federal Fiscal Year	Base Year Empirical DSH Pmts	Factor 1 Avg	Factor 1 Add-On	Base Year Adjusted for Factor 1	75% of Base Year Adjusted for Factor 1	Post-ACA % without Insurance	Post-ACA Change in Uninsured	Factor 2 Reduction	UC DSH Pool
FFY26 Proposed	\$13.0	104.8%	\$2.6	\$15.6	\$11.7	8.5%	61%	(\$4.6)	\$7.1
FFY25 Final	\$13.4	101.2%	\$0.6	\$14.0	\$10.5	7.6%	54%	(\$4.8)	\$5.7
FFY25 Proposed	\$13.4	101.0%	\$0.5	\$13.9	\$10.5	8.7%	62%	(\$4.0)	\$6.5
FFY24 Final	\$13.3	100.2%	\$0.1	\$13.4	\$10.0	8.3%	59%	(\$4.1)	\$6.0
FFY24 Proposed	\$13.3	100.8%	\$0.4	\$13.7	\$10.2	9.2%	66%	(\$3.5)	\$6.7
FFY23 Final	\$13.8	100.4%	\$0.1	\$13.9	\$10.5	9.2%	66%	(\$3.6)	\$6.9
FFY23 Proposed	\$13.8	99.1%	(\$0.5)	\$13.3	\$9.9	9.2%	66%	(\$3.4)	\$6.5

# Suggested Comments to CMS on Factor 1



## Update Factor (Market Basket)

- Increase 2024 through 2026 market basket updates by at least 1% per **MedPAC's Draft Recommendations for 2026** and **March 2025 Report to Congress**
- Increase 2023 market basket update by at least 1.5 percentage points per **MedPAC March 2024 Report to Congress**

# Factor 3

## Hospital Proportion UC DSH Funding Allocation

$$\text{FFY26} = \text{UC Cost (UCC) Avg FFY 2020, FFY 2021 and FFY 2022}^{(1)}$$

Next year (FFY 2027), UC DSH will use FFY 2021, FFY 2022 and FFY 2023 UC cost data

FFY 2023 cost reports will be subject to MAC audit

If necessary, it is recommended providers work with MACs to request amended cost reports and/or re-openings for any material UC cost changes needed on other cost reports used in the three-year average (e.g., 2021 and 2022), which will impact FFY 2027 UC DSH payments

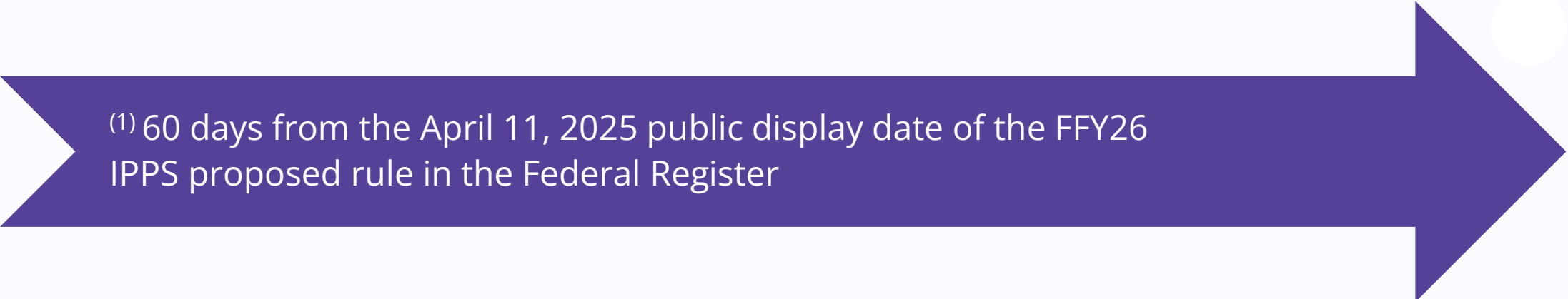
<sup>(1)</sup>If multiple cost reports, CMS uses the longest cost report within the federal fiscal year.

# Worksheet S-10 UC Cost Verification

Providers have until **June 10<sup>th</sup>(1)** to notify CMS for issues related to mergers and/or to report potential upload discrepancies due to MAC mishandling of Worksheet S-10 data during the report submission process

Please see CMS's file entitled "[FY 2026 IPPS Proposed Rule Medicare DSH Supplemental Data File \(ZIP\):](#)" at the [FFY 2026 Proposed Rule Home Page](#)

Providers may contact CMS at [Section3133DSH@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Section3133DSH@cms.hhs.gov) to request corrections



<sup>(1)</sup> 60 days from the April 11, 2025 public display date of the FFY26 IPPS proposed rule in the Federal Register

# Empirical DSH Update

Empirical DSH  
Cost Reports  
Beginning Before 10/1/04

[1498-R2](#) allowed  
selection of  
covered days vs.  
total days in the  
SSI numerator

[Supreme Court  
Decision in  
Empire v. Becerra](#)  
resulted in  
[1498-R3](#)  
(reversed "R2")  
and settles all  
open cost reports  
on total SSI days

Empirical DSH  
Cost Reports  
Beginning Between  
10/1/04 – 9/30/13

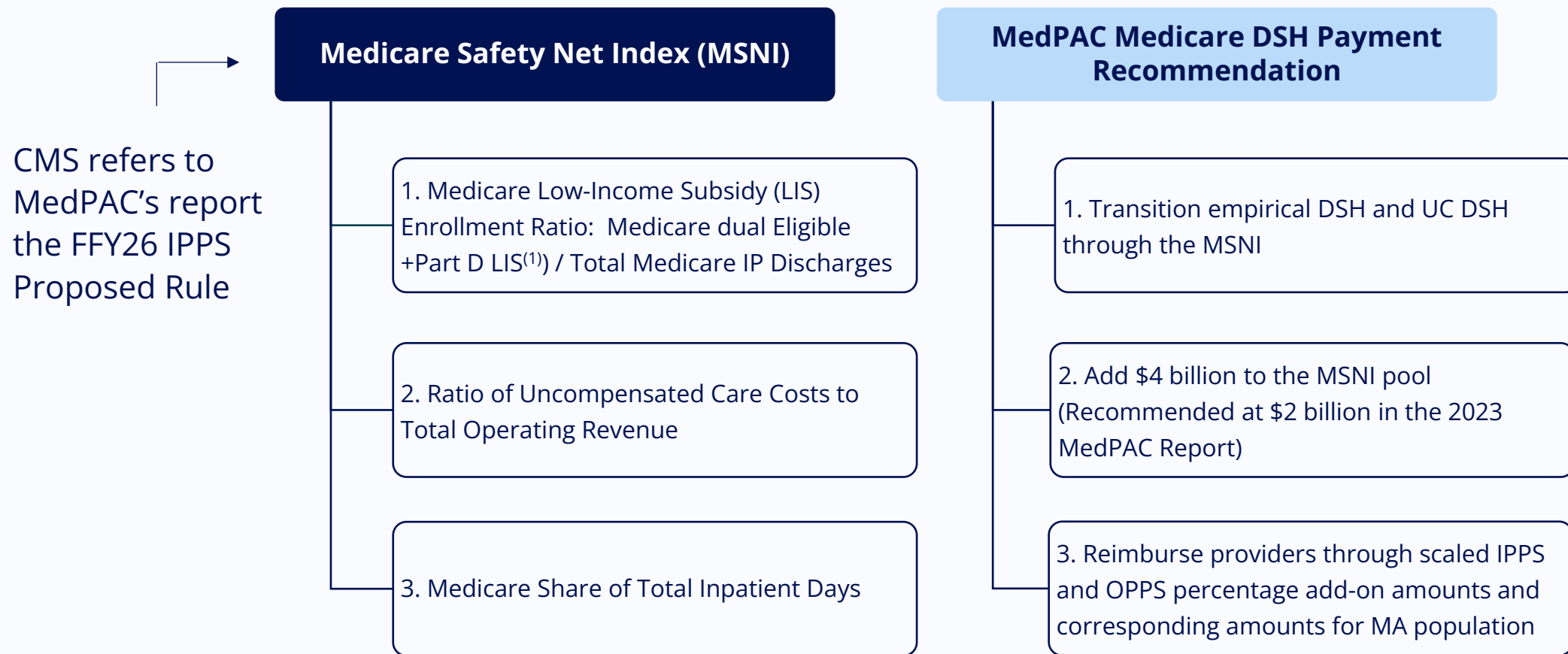
CMS  
interpretation  
includes Part C  
days in the SSI  
fraction

Other SSI Litigation

[Pomona v.  
Becerra](#)  
challenges the  
accuracy of SSI  
ratio used by  
CMS

Supreme Court  
recently ruled in  
favor of CMS in  
[Advocate v.  
Becerra](#)

# MedPAC's March 2025 Report to Congress



<sup>(1)</sup>Part D (Prescription Coverage) = Income below 150 percent of the federal poverty level.



# Graduate Medical Education

# Available FTE Slots from Hospital Closures (ACA Section 5506)

Applications due no later than July 10, 2025

Must apply through the [Medicare Electronic Application Request Information System™ \(MEARIS™\)](#)

Medicare Provider Number	Provider Name	ACA Section 5506 Round	CBSA	Available IME Caps	Available GME Caps
12-0004	Wahiawa General Hospital	24	Urban Honolulu, HI	17.16	14.31
22-0017	Carney Hospital	25	Boston, MA	63.15	61.14

# Prorating Non-12-Month Cost Report Periods

- CMS proposes methodology for prorating FTEs and caps for cost reporting periods other than twelve months
- Methodology accounts for current, prior and penultimate year FTEs



# Nursing and Allied Health Education (NAHE)

- [MERCY HEALTH-ST. VINCENT MEDICAL CENTER LLC et al v. BECERRA](#) ruled in favor of providers to allow direct and indirect costs to be summed, and tuition and fees to be subtracted from that sum.
- [42 CFR 413.85\(d\)\(2\)\(i\)](#) updated to clarify the following steps:
  1. Determine allowable provider direct costs for trainee stipends and compensation of teachers employed by the provider.
  2. Subtract from allowable direct costs the revenues the provider receives from students or on behalf of students enrolled in the program.
  3. Add indirect costs of the activities (per 42 CFR 413.24), but limited to indirect costs that the provider itself incurs as a on sequence of operating the approved educational activities.

## NAHE (continued)

- CMS notes is not uncommon for a provider's total revenues from tuition, student fees and other sources to exceed the provider's allowable direct costs of its nursing and allied health education programs.
- CMS states if a provider wishes to change its statistical allocation basis for a particular cost center and/or the order in which the cost centers are allocated, the provider must make a written request to its MAC in accordance with PRM 15-1, chapter 23, section 2313.
  - ...“specific to NAHE education programs, a provider may elect to subscript its A&G cost center (line 5 of Worksheet A) for overhead costs directly related to NAHE programs and use a statistic other than accumulated costs, which specifically relates to the NAHE cost being allocated.”

# “TEAM” Alternative Payments Update

# TEAM Update

**Anchor  
Hospitalization**



**All other Medicare Parts A and B spending**

Beginning of IP  
admission or  
OP service

30 Days Post-  
Hospital  
Discharge

# TEAM Update

## Five Surgical Episode Categories

Coronary Artery  
Bypass Graft  
(CABG)

Lower Extremity  
Joint Replacement  
(LEJR)

Major Bowel  
Procedure

Surgical Hip/Femur  
Fracture Treatment  
(SHFFT)

Spinal Fusion

- Mandatory 5-Year Episode-Based Payment System
- Performance Years January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2030
- IPPS hospitals selected through random sampling of CBSAs

Transforming Episode Accountability Model (TEAM)



# TEAM Update

Track	Performance Year (PY)	Participants	Financial Risk
1	PY 1 only	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upside risk only (10% stop-gain limit)</li> <li>CQS<sup>(1)</sup> adjustment percentage of up to 10% for positive reconciliation amounts</li> </ul>
2	PYs 2-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safety net</li> <li>Rural</li> <li>MDH</li> <li>SCH</li> <li>EACH</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upside and downside risk (10% stop-gain/stop-loss limits)</li> <li>CQS adjustment percentage of up to 10% for positive reconciliation amounts and CQS adjustment percentage of up to 15% for negative reconciliation amounts</li> </ul>
3	PYs 1-5	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upside and downside risk (20% stop-gain/stop-loss limits)</li> <li>CQS adjustment percentage of up to 10% for positive and negative reconciliation amounts</li> </ul>

<sup>(1)</sup>Composite Quality Score  
Transforming Episode Accountability Model (TEAM)

# TEAM Update

Episode Category	Billing Codes (MS-DRG/HCPCS)
CABG	MS-DRG 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236
LEJR	MS-DRG 469, 470, 521, 522 HCPCS 27447, 27130, 27702
Major bowel procedure	MS-DRG 329, 330, 331
SHFFT	MS-DRG 480, 481, 482
Spinal fusion	MS-DRG 453, 454, 455, 459, 460, 471, 472, 473 HCPCS 22551, 22554, 22612, 22630, 22633

Transforming Episode Accountability Model (TEAM)

# TEAM Update

## FFY26 IPPS Proposed Rule Highlights

- Replace the [Area Deprivation Index](#) with the [Community Deprivation Index](#)
- Three Team Quality Measures
- Deferment period of one-year for new hospitals (CCNs after 1/31/24)
- Current MDHs remain on Track 2
- Price per episode weighted three-year rolling target benchmark by MS-DRG/HCPCS type and region
- Comprehensive risk adjustments:
  - Beneficiary factors including age, hierarchical condition category and economic risk
  - Hospital factors including bed size and safety-net status
  - Episode-specific adjustors tailored to care complexity

# Addendum A

## Proposed FFY26 IPPS Operating Rates

# Proposed FFY26 IPPS Operating Rates

2.40% Full Update		
Labor/Non-Labor	FFY26 Proposed	FFY26 Proposed vs. FFY25 Final
<b><i>Wage Index &gt; 1.0000</i></b>		
Labor (66.0%)	\$4,511.41	0.74%
Non-Labor (34.0%)	<u>\$2,324.06</u>	8.28%
Total	\$6,835.47	3.19%
<b><i>Wage Index &lt; = 1.0000</i></b>		
Labor (62.0%)	\$4,237.99	3.19%
Non-Labor (38.0%)	<u>\$2,597.48</u>	3.19%
Total	\$6,835.47	3.19%

# Proposed FFY26 IPPS Operating Rates

0.00% Update (Quality Reporting, but not Meaningful EHR User)		
Labor/Non-Labor	FFY26 Proposed	FFY26 Proposed vs. FFY25 Final
<b><i>Wage Index &gt; 1.0000</i></b>		
Labor (66.0%)	\$4,405.67	0.88%
Non-Labor (34.0%)	<u>\$2,269.59</u>	8.43%
Total	\$6,675.26	3.33%
<b><i>Wage Index &lt; = 1.0000</i></b>		
Labor (62.0%)	\$4,138.66	3.33%
Non-Labor (38.0%)	<u>\$2,536.60</u>	3.33%
Total	\$6,675.26	3.33%

# Proposed FFY26 IPPS Operating Rates

## 1.60% Reduced Update (Meaningful EHR User, but no Quality data)

Labor/Non-Labor	FFY26 Proposed	FFY26 Proposed vs. FFY25 Final
<b><i>Wage Index &gt; 1.0000</i></b>		
Labor (66.0%)	\$4,476.16	0.79%
Non-Labor (34.0%)	<u>\$2,305.90</u>	8.33%
Total	\$6,782.06	3.23%
<b><i>Wage Index &lt; = 1.0000</i></b>		
Labor (62.0%)	\$4,204.88	3.23%
Non-Labor (38.0%)	<u>\$2,577.18</u>	3.23%
Total	\$6,782.06	3.23%

# Proposed FFY26 IPPS Operating Rates

**-0.80% Reduced Update (Not Meaningful EHR User Nor Quality data)**

**Labor/Non-Labor**

**FFY26 Proposed**

**FFY26 Proposed vs.  
FFY25 Final**

***Wage Index > 1.0000***

Labor (66.0%)

\$4,370.43

0.93%

Non-Labor (34.0%)

\$2,251.43

8.48%

Total

\$6,621.86

3.38%

***Wage Index <= 1.0000***

Labor (62.0%)

\$4,105.55

3.38%

Non-Labor (38.0%)

\$2,516.31

3.38%

Total

\$6,621.86

3.38%



# Proposed FFY26 IPPS - Other Key Rates and Factors

Description	FFY26 Proposed	FFY26 Proposed vs. FFY25 Final
National UC DSH Funding	\$7,244,000,000	25.18%
Sequestration Adjustment	-2.00%	0.00%
Capital Rate	\$528.95	3.28%
Fixed Loss Outlier Threshold	\$44,305.00	-4.14%
<b>Long Term Care Hospital (LTCH) Rates:</b>		
LTCH Full Update	\$50,728.77	2.72%
LTCH Reduced Update	\$49,739.90	2.72%

# Addendum B

Proposed FFY26 Market Basket Updates for Other Provider Types and Services

# Market Basket Trend

## Outpatient Prospect Payment System (OPPS)

**CY26 OPPS Proposed Rule will be published in mid-July**

Adjustments	CY25	CY24	Change
Market Basket	3.40%	3.30%	0.10%
ACA Productivity Adjustment	-0.50%	-0.20%	-0.30%
<b>Net Update</b>	<b>2.90%</b>	<b>3.10%</b>	<b>-0.20%</b>
Budget Neutrality Changes <sup>(1)</sup>	-0.85%	-1.00%	0.10%
<b>Total Medicare Rate Update<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>2.05%</b>	<b>2.10%</b>	<b>-0.05%</b>

**\$1.8 billion  
increase  
in CY25**

(1) Determined by comparing CY25 and CY24 conversion factors of \$89.169 and \$87.382, respectively.

# FFY26 Market Basket Trend

## Other Provider Types

Adjustments	Inpatient Psychiatric Facility	Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility	Skilled Nursing Facility	Hospice
<b>Market Basket</b>	<b>3.20%</b>	<b>3.40%</b>	<b>3.00%</b>	<b>3.20%</b>
ACA Productivity Adjustment	-0.80%	-0.80%	-0.80%	-0.80%
Forecast error adjustment	0.00%	0.00%	0.60%	0.00%
<b>Net Update</b>	<b>2.40%</b>	<b>2.60%</b>	<b>2.80%</b>	<b>2.40%</b>

# Addendum C

## MS-DRG Weights

27 DRGs Increase by 10% or more from FFY25

31 DRGs Held Harmless at 10% Decrease from FFY25

# FFY26 IPPS MS-DRG Weights

## Increases over 10% from FFY25 (Page 1 of 2)

MS-DRG	MS-DRG Title	FY26 Prop.	FY25 Final CN	% Var
783	CESAREAN SECTION WITH STERILIZATION WITH MCC	2.45	1.84	24.96%
624	SKIN GRAFTS AND WOUND DEBRIDEMENT FOR ENDOCRINE, NUTRITIONAL AND METABOLIC DISORDERS WITHOUT CC/MCC	1.26	1.00	20.53%
508	MAJOR SHOULDER OR ELBOW JOINT PROCEDURES WITHOUT CC/MCC	1.60	1.29	19.45%
804	OTHER O.R. PROCEDURES OF THE BLOOD AND BLOOD FORMING ORGANS WITHOUT CC/MCC	1.36	1.11	18.51%
257	UPPER LIMB AND TOE AMPUTATION FOR CIRCULATORY SYSTEM DISORDERS WITHOUT CC/MCC	1.09	0.89	18.17%
769	POSTPARTUM AND POST ABORTION DIAGNOSES WITH O.R. PROCEDURES	1.69	1.39	17.75%
411	CHOLECYSTECTOMY WITH C.D.E. WITH MCC	3.30	2.74	17.18%
801	SPLENIC PROCEDURES WITHOUT CC/MCC	1.91	1.64	14.14%
114	ORBITAL PROCEDURES WITHOUT CC/MCC	1.37	1.18	13.66%
618	AMPUTATION OF LOWER LIMB FOR ENDOCRINE, NUTRITIONAL AND METABOLIC DISORDERS WITHOUT CC/MCC	1.44	1.25	13.26%
122	ACUTE MAJOR EYE INFECTIONS WITHOUT CC/MCC	0.78	0.68	13.15%
022	INTRACRANIAL VASCULAR PROCEDURES WITH PRINCIPAL DIAGNOSIS HEMORRHAGE OR INTRACRANIAL NEUROSTIMULATOR IMPLANT WITHOUT CC/MCC	4.06	3.53	13.08%
750	OTHER FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM O.R. PROCEDURES WITHOUT CC/MCC	1.48	1.29	12.81%

# FFY26 IPPS MS-DRG Weights

## Increases over 10% from FFY25 (Page 2 of 2)

MS-DRG	MS-DRG Title	FY26 Prop.	FY25 Final CN	% Var
886	BEHAVIORAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS	2.05	1.80	12.48%
939	O.R. PROCEDURES WITH DIAGNOSES OF OTHER CONTACT WITH HEALTH SERVICES WITH MCC	3.63	3.17	12.46%
642	INBORN AND OTHER DISORDERS OF METABOLISM	1.42	1.24	12.36%
143	OTHER EAR, NOSE, MOUTH AND THROAT O.R. PROCEDURES WITH MCC	3.74	3.30	11.77%
714	TRANSURETHRAL PROSTATECTOMY WITHOUT CC/MCC	1.06	0.94	11.63%
018	CHIMERIC ANTIGEN RECEPTOR (CAR) T-CELL AND OTHER IMMUNOTHERAPIES	42.66	37.71	11.60%
263	VEIN LIGATION AND STRIPPING	3.02	2.68	11.19%
959	OTHER O.R. PROCEDURES FOR MULTIPLE SIGNIFICANT TRAUMA WITHOUT CC/MCC	2.97	2.64	10.89%
221	CARDIAC VALVE AND OTHER MAJOR CARDIOTHORACIC PROCEDURES WITHOUT CARDIAC CATHETERIZATION WITHOUT CC/MCC	5.15	4.59	10.78%
218	CARDIAC VALVE AND OTHER MAJOR CARDIOTHORACIC PROCEDURES WITH CARDIAC CATHETERIZATION WITHOUT CC/MCC	6.64	5.95	10.47%
325	CORONARY INTRAVASCULAR LITHOTRIpsy WITHOUT INTRALUMINAL DEVICE	3.20	2.86	10.45%
735	PELVIC EVISCERATION, RADICAL HYSTERECTOMY AND RADICAL VULVECTOMY WITHOUT CC/MCC	1.35	1.21	10.18%
940	O.R. PROCEDURES WITH DIAGNOSES OF OTHER CONTACT WITH HEALTH SERVICES WITH CC	2.35	2.11	10.13%
547	CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISORDERS WITHOUT CC/MCC	0.83	0.75	10.07%

# FFY26 IPPS MS-DRG Weights

## DRGs Held Harmless at 10% Reduction from FFY25 (1 of 2)

MS-DRG	MS-DRG Title	FY26 Prop.	FY25 Final CN	% Var <sup>(1)</sup>
736	UTERINE AND ADNEXA PROCEDURES FOR OVARIAN OR ADNEXAL MALIGNANCY WITH MCC	3.58	3.94	-10.12%
665	PROSTATECTOMY WITH MCC	3.12	3.43	-10.16%
975	HIV WITH MAJOR RELATED CONDITION WITH CC	1.29	1.42	-10.52%
933	EXTENSIVE BURNS OR FULL THICKNESS BURNS WITH MV >96 HOURS WITHOUT SKIN GRAFT	3.91	4.33	-10.79%
182	RESPIRATORY NEOPLASMS WITHOUT CC/MCC	0.75	0.84	-11.10%
297	CARDIAC ARREST, UNEXPLAINED WITH CC	0.63	0.70	-11.10%
887	OTHER MENTAL DISORDER DIAGNOSES	1.07	1.19	-11.11%
052	SPINAL DISORDERS AND INJURIES WITH CC/MCC	1.81	2.01	-11.11%
906	HAND PROCEDURES FOR INJURIES	1.96	2.18	-11.11%
747	VAGINA, CERVIX AND VULVA PROCEDURES WITHOUT CC/MCC	0.86	0.96	-11.11%
905	SKIN GRAFTS FOR INJURIES WITHOUT CC/MCC	1.48	1.65	-11.11%
576	SKIN GRAFT EXCEPT FOR SKIN ULCER OR CELLULITIS WITH MCC	4.86	5.40	-11.11%
135	SINUS AND MASTOID PROCEDURES WITH CC/MCC	2.17	2.41	-11.11%
817	OTHER ANTEPARTUM DIAGNOSES WITH O.R. PROCEDURES WITH MCC	2.28	2.54	-11.11%
019	SIMULTANEOUS PANCREAS AND KIDNEY TRANSPLANT WITH HEMODIALYSIS	7.13	7.93	-11.11%
976	HIV WITH MAJOR RELATED CONDITION WITHOUT CC/MCC	0.90	1.00	-11.11%
139	SALIVARY GLAND PROCEDURES	1.24	1.37	-11.11%

<sup>(1)</sup>Toyon is investigating why percentages do not reconcile to -10%.



# FFY26 IPPS MS-DRG Weights

## DRGs Held Harmless at 10% Reduction from FFY25 (2 of 2)

MS-DRG	MS-DRG Title	FY26 Prop.	FY25 Final CN	% Var <sup>(1)</sup>
818	OTHER ANTEPARTUM DIAGNOSES WITH O.R. PROCEDURES WITH CC	1.16	1.29	-11.11%
616	AMPUTATION OF LOWER LIMB FOR ENDOCRINE, NUTRITIONAL AND METABOLIC DISORDERS WITH MCC	3.48	3.87	-11.11%
927	EXTENSIVE BURNS OR FULL THICKNESS BURNS WITH MV >96 HOURS WITH SKIN GRAFT	21.35	23.72	-11.11%
017	AUTOLOGOUS BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT WITHOUT CC/MCC	5.43	6.04	-11.11%
739	UTERINE AND ADNEXA PROCEDURES FOR NON-OVARIAN AND NON-ADNEXAL MALIGNANCY WITH MCC	3.58	3.98	-11.11%
977	HIV WITH OR WITHOUT OTHER RELATED CONDITION	1.30	1.44	-11.11%
076	VIRAL MENINGITIS WITHOUT CC/MCC	0.83	0.92	-11.11%
541	OSTEOMYELITIS WITHOUT CC/MCC	0.79	0.87	-11.11%
599	MALIGNANT BREAST DISORDERS WITHOUT CC/MCC	0.77	0.85	-11.11%
575	SKIN GRAFT FOR SKIN ULCER OR CELLULITIS WITHOUT CC/MCC	1.80	2.00	-11.11%
761	MENSTRUAL AND OTHER FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM DISORDERS WITHOUT CC/MCC	0.57	0.63	-11.11%
779	ABORTION WITHOUT D&C	0.84	0.93	-11.11%
796	VAGINAL DELIVERY WITH STERILIZATION AND/OR D&C WITH MCC	1.15	1.28	-11.11%
724	MALIGNANCY, MALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM WITHOUT CC/MCC	0.66	0.73	-11.12%

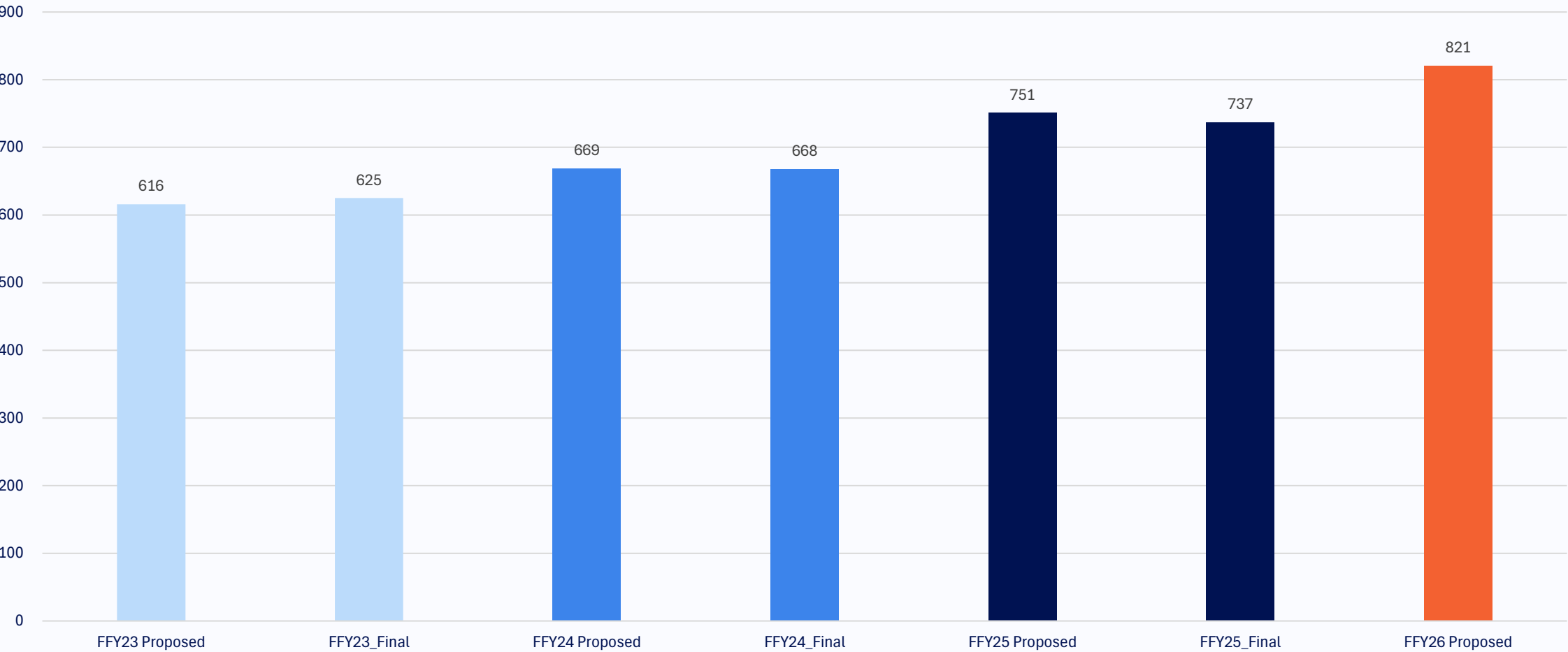
<sup>(1)</sup>Toyon is investigating why percentages do not reconcile to -10%.

# Addendum D

Trend of Hospital Reclassifications and Redesignations

# IPPS Hospitals Redesignated as Rural

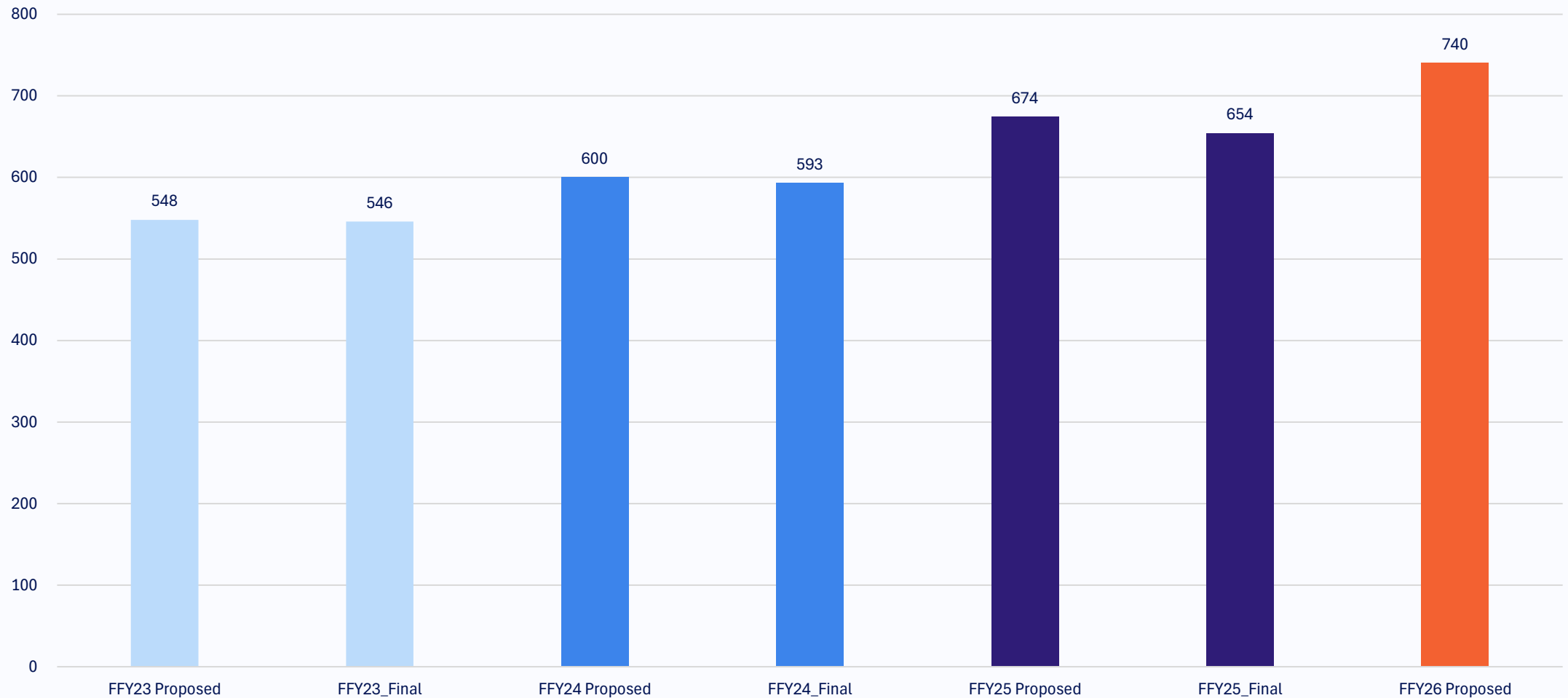
## 42 CFR 412.103



Per Table 2 of the respective Rule. In the FFY26 IPPS Proposed Rule, there are 3,259 acute care hospitals receiving IPPS payments (including Puerto Rico).

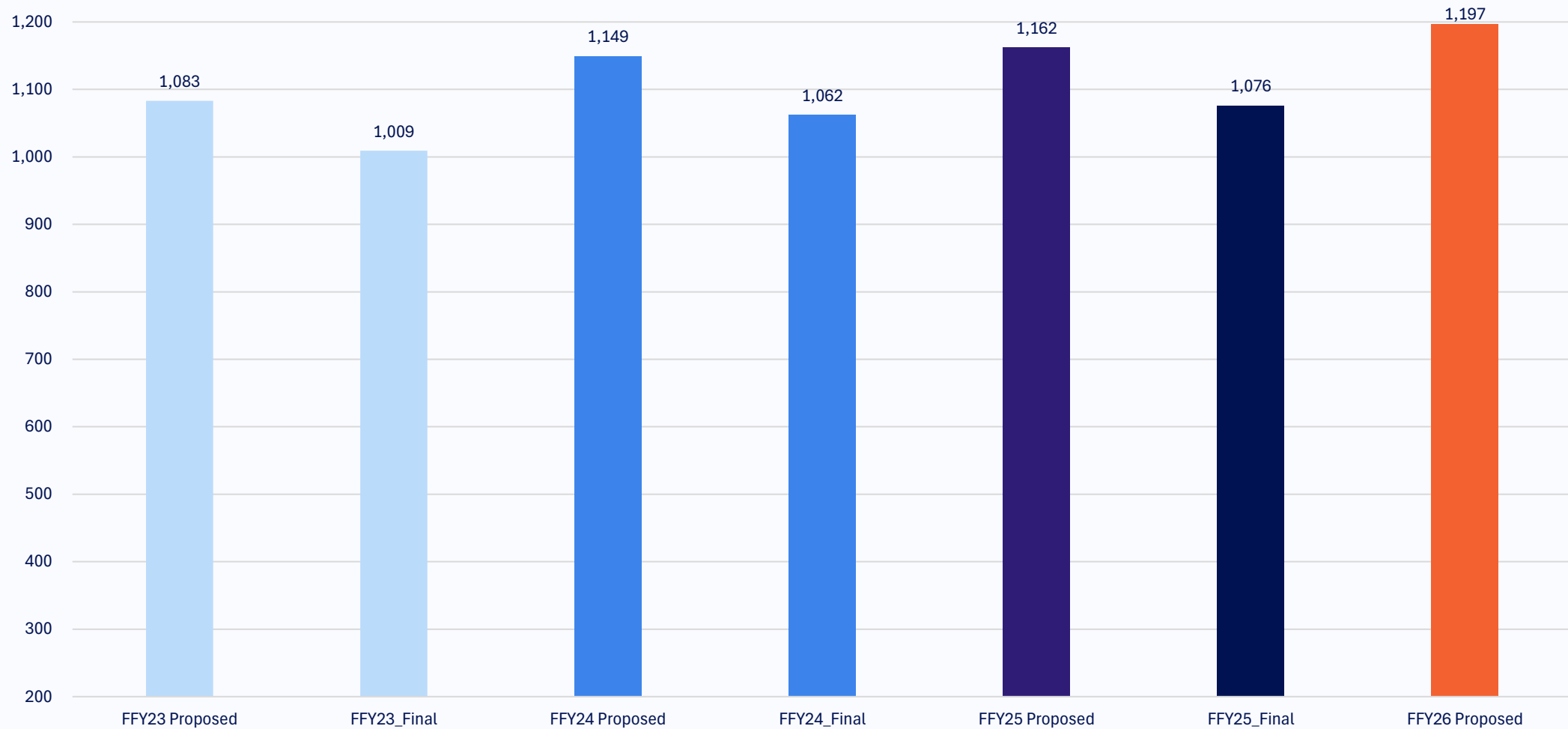
# IPPS Hospitals with Dual Reclassifications

## 42 CFR 412.103 and MGCRB Reclassifications



Per Table 2 of the respective Rule. In the FFY26 IPPS Proposed Rule, there are 3,259 acute care hospitals receiving IPPS payments (including Puerto Rico).

# IPPS Hospitals with MGCRB Reclassifications



Per Table 2 of the respective Rule. In the FFY26 IPPS Proposed Rule, there are 3,259 acute care hospitals receiving IPPS payments (including Puerto Rico).

# Thank you

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**Steven W. Hand, MPA, CPA, FHFMA**

Associate Vice President, Government Reporting  
Memorial Hermann System Services  
[steve.hand@memorialhermann.org](mailto:steve.hand@memorialhermann.org)



**Fred Fisher**

Vice President, Service Development  
Toyon Associates, Inc.  
[fred.fisher@toyonassociates.com](mailto:fred.fisher@toyonassociates.com)