

• On pages 50281 through 50283, we provide a detailed explanation of impact of the changes displayed in Table I. This explanation includes references to column numbers and to figures contained in Table I. We are correcting the numbering of the columns and some of the figures in the table; therefore, we will also correct these figures in our explanation of Table I. We also note the following corrections:

- On page 50281,
 - Third column, first full paragraph, line 9, the phrase “80 percent with” will be corrected to read “80 percent of”;
 - Third column, last paragraph, lines 8 and 9, the figures “(343)” and “11” will be corrected to read “(344)” and “10” respectively;
 - Chart showing the “percentage change in area wage index values”, third column of the chart, the figures “11” and “343” will be corrected to read “10” and “344” respectively;
 - Third column, last paragraph, last two lines, the phrase “greater than 5 percent or with increases of more than 10 percent” will be corrected to read “greater than 5 percent but less than 10 percent. There are no rural hospitals with decreases in their wage index value greater than 10 percent.”;
- On page 50282,
 - Chart at the top of the page, the figures “2553” and “1975” will be corrected to read “2565” and “1985” respectively;
 - Second column, second full paragraph, lines 1 through 3, the sentence “The overall effect of geographic reclassification is required by section 1886(d)(8)(D) of the Act to be budget neutral.” will be corrected to read “Section 1886(d)(8)(D) of the Act requires that the overall effect of geographic reclassification is budget neutral.”
 - Second column, second full paragraph, line 5, the figure “0.990672” will be corrected to read “0.991095”;
 - Second column, fourth full paragraph, lines 1 and 2, the sentence “A positive impact is evident among of the most rural hospital groups.” will be corrected to read “Geographic reclassification has a positive impact on most of the rural hospital groups.”;
 - Second column, last paragraph, lines 9 and 10, the phrase “while rural reclassified hospitals are expected” will be corrected to read “while rural reclassified hospitals are also expected”;
 - Third column, first full paragraph, line 3, the phrase “in this proposed rule” will be corrected to read “in this final rule”;

- Third column, first full paragraph, lines 6 and 7, the phrase “policy changes to date” will be corrected to read “policy changes”;
- Third column, second full paragraph, line 1, the phrase “It includes” will be corrected to read “Column 7 includes”;
- Third column, second full paragraph, line 9, the figure “7.2” will be corrected to read “6.9”.
- On page 50283,
 - First column, third paragraph, lines 5 and 6, the phrase “Hospitals in rural areas, meanwhile, experience” will be corrected to read “Meanwhile, hospitals in rural areas experience”;
 - Second column, first full paragraph—
 - ++ Line 7, the phrase “This is primarily due” will be corrected to read “These reductions are primarily due”;
 - ++ Line 11, the phrase “only hospital category” will be corrected to read “only rural hospital category”;
 - ++ Line 14, the phrase “updated wage data” will be corrected to read “updated wage index data”;
 - ++ Line 14, the phrase “In the East” will be corrected to read “In the rural East”;
 - ++ Line 16, the phrase “Mountain and West” will be corrected to read “The rural Mountain and West”;
 - Third column, first full paragraph, line 2, the phrase “receive a” will be corrected to read “receive an overall”;
- On pages 50283 through 50284, Table II—Impact Analysis of Changes for FY 2003 Operating Prospective Payment System, the table will be corrected to read as specified in section III of this notice.
- On page 50285—
 - First column, first paragraph, last line, the phrase “from column 8 of Table I will be corrected to read “from column 7 of Table I”;
 - First column, second full paragraph, the section entitled VII.A. Impact of Changes Relating to Payment for the Clinical Training Portion of Clinical Psychology Training Programs was inadvertently included in the final rule. Therefore, we are correcting this error by deleting the text of this section and renumbering sections VII.B. and VII.C. as sections VII.A. and VII.B. respectively. We are also making revisions to the heading of renumbered section VII.A. and to the discussions in the both of sections. Please see section III of this notice for the revised language;
 - Second column, second paragraph, lines 7 through 9, the sentence “Currently, we have identified 622 hospitals that qualify under this provision” will be corrected to read

- “We have identified 622 hospitals that currently qualify under this provision”.
- Second column, third paragraph—
 - ++ Line 5, the phrase “appear to receive this adjustment” will be corrected to read “will receive pass-through payments”;
 - ++ Lines 5 through 8, the sentence “In order to be eligible, hospitals must employ the CRNA and the CRNA must agree not to bill for services under Part B.” will be corrected to read “That is, another approximately 600 rural hospitals have similar volumes to hospitals that currently receive the pass-through. However, because in order to be eligible to receive pass-through payments, the hospital must employ the CRNA and the CRNA must agree not to bill for services under Part B, we estimate that half the hospitals that would otherwise qualify based on volume of procedures are not eligible because they either do not employ the CRNA or the CRNA does not agree not to bill for services under Part B.”;
 - ++ Lines 11 through 15, the sentence “If one-half of these hospitals then met the other criteria, 45 additional hospitals would be eligible for these pass-through payments under this change” will be corrected to read “If one-half of these hospitals then met the other criteria (the CRNA is employed by the hospital and the CRNA does not bill for Part B), 45 additional hospitals would now be eligible for these pass-through payments under this change.”;
- Second column, fourth paragraph—
 - ++ Line 5, the figure “600” will be corrected to read “630”;
 - ++ Line 7, the figure “270” will be corrected to read “598”.
- Second column, after the fourth paragraph, we are adding a new section C to read as specified in section III of this notice.

B. Corrections Effective April 28, 2003

This section summarizes three wage index corrections that result from our errors in the geographic reclassification designations and wage data that were used to calculate the FY 2003 wage indexes for three hospitals. Where errors are identified and corrections are made to the wage index, we believe it is appropriate to apply the revised wage index prospectively. As we stated in the January 3, 1984 final rule (49 FR 258), “Application of a retroactive adjustment to the rates [for corrections in the wage index] would erode the basis of the prospective payment system that payment will be made at a predetermined, specified rate.” Because we can only make prospective changes