

comments and responses that were inadvertently omitted from the August 1, 2002 final rule. We have incorporated these comments and responses into this correction notice to assure the commenters that we received their comments on the proposed rule and that their comments were given full consideration before publication of the final rule. Additional technical corrections include, corrections to entries in various tables and charts, replacing data inadvertently published with the correct data, and also making a variety of grammatical corrections. These corrections are necessary to

ensure that the final rule accurately reflects our prospective payment methodology and rates. In addition, these corrections ensure that correct wage index values are used to calculate payments to hospitals. In light of the very technical nature of these corrections, notice-and-comment procedures are both unnecessary and impracticable. Therefore, we find good cause to waive notice and comment procedures.

In addition, the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) normally requires a 30-day delay in the effective date of a final rule. Because this notice simply

makes technical modifications to a final rule that has previously gone through notice-and-comment rulemaking, we believe good cause also exists under APA to waive the 30-day delay in the effective date.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.773, Medicare—Hospital Insurance; and Program No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplementary Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: April 17, 2003.

**Ann C. Agnew,**

*Executive Secretary to the Department.*

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