

Hospital Reimbursement - TRICARE DRG-Based Payment System (Adjusted Standardized Amounts (ASAs))

Issue Date: October 8, 1987
Authority: [32 CFR 199.14\(a\)\(1\)](#)

1.0 APPLICABILITY

This policy is mandatory for reimbursement of services provided by either network or non-network providers. However, alternative network reimbursement methodologies are permitted when approved by the TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) and specifically included in the network provider agreement.

2.0 ISSUE

What are the Adjusted Standardized Amounts (ASAs) under the TRICARE Diagnosis Related Group (DRG)-based payment system, and how are they used and calculated?

3.0 POLICY

3.1 General

The ASA represents the adjusted average operating cost for treating all TRICARE beneficiaries in all DRGs during the database period. During Fiscal Year (FY) 1988 the TRICARE DRG-based payment system used two ASAs--one for urban areas and one for rural areas. Beginning in FY 1989 (admissions on or after October 1, 1988), three ASAs are used--one for large urban areas, one for other urban areas, and one for rural areas. Effective October 1, 1994, rural hospitals will receive the same payment rate as other urban hospitals. Effective April 1, through September 30, 2003, and November 1, 2003 forward, hospitals located in other areas shall receive the same ASA payment rate as large urban hospitals.

3.2 Calculation Of The ASA

The following procedures will be followed in calculating the TRICARE ASA.

3.2.1 Apply the Cost-to-Charge Ratio (CCR). In this step each charge is reduced to a representative cost by using the Medicare CCR. Effective FY 2013, the CCR is 0.2979. Effective FY 2014, the CCR is 0.2778. **Effective FY 2015, the CCR is 0.2726.**

3.2.2 Increase for Bad Debts. The base standardized amount will be increased by 0.01 in order to reimburse hospitals for bad debt expenses attributable to TRICARE beneficiaries. The base standardized amount will be increased by 0.0060 for FY 2000, 0.0055 for FY 2001, and through July

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14, 2001, and by 0.0070 as of July 15, 2001 through FY 2012. Effective FY 2013, the base standardized amount will be increased by 0.0065.

3.2.3 Update for Inflation. Each record in the database will be updated to FY 1988 using a factor equal to 1.07. Thereafter, any recalculation of the ASA will use an inflation factor equal to the hospital market basket index used by the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in their Prospective Payment System (PPS).

3.2.4 Preliminary Non-Teaching Standardized Amount. At this point Indirect Medical Education (IDME) costs have been removed through standardization in the weight methodology and direct medical education costs have been removed through the application of the Medicare CCR which does not include direct medical education costs. Therefore, a non-teaching standardized amount will be computed by dividing aggregate costs by the number of discharges in the database.

3.2.5 Preliminary Teaching Standardized Amounts. A separate standardized amount will be calculated for each teaching hospital to reimburse for IDME expenses. This will be done by multiplying the non-teaching standardized amount by 1.0 plus each hospital's IDME factor.

3.2.6 System Standardization. The preliminary standardized amounts will be further standardized using a factor which equals total DRG payments using the preliminary standardized amounts divided by the sum of all costs in the database (updated for inflation). To achieve standardization, each preliminary standardized amount will be divided by this factor. This step is necessary so that total DRG system outlays, given the same distribution among hospitals and diagnoses, are equal whether based on DRGs or on charges reduced to costs.

3.2.7 Labor-Related and Nonlabor-Related Portions of the ASA. The ASA shall be divided into labor-related and nonlabor-related portions according to the ratio of these amounts in the national ASA under the Medicare PPS. Since October 1, 1997, the labor-related portion of the ASA equals 71.1% and the non-labor portion equals 28.9%. Effective October 1, 2004, and subsequent years, for wage indexes less than or equal to 1.0 the labor related portion of the ASA shall equal 62%. Effective October 1, 2005, and subsequent years, for wage index values greater than 1.0, the labor related portion of the ASA shall equal 69.7%. Effective October 1, 2009 and subsequent years, for wage index values greater than 1.0, the labor related portion of the ASA shall equal 68.8% and the non-labor-related portion shall equal 31.2%. **Effective October 1, 2013, and subsequent years, for wage index values greater than 1.0, the labor related portion of the ASA shall equal 69.6%, and the non-labor related portion shall equal 30.4%.** For wage indexes less than or equal to 1.0 the labor-related portion for the ASA shall equal 62% and the non-labor-related portion shall equal 38%.

3.2.8 Updating the Standardized Amounts. For years subsequent to the initial year, the standardized amounts will be updated by the final published Medicare annual update factor, unless the standardized amounts are recalculated.

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