§419.30  Base expenditure target for calendar year 1999.

(a) CMS estimates the aggregate amount that would be payable for hospital outpatient services in calendar year 1999 by summing—

(1) The total amounts that would be payable from the Trust Fund for covered hospital outpatient services without regard to the outpatient prospective payment system described in this part; and

(2) The total amounts of coinsurance that would be payable by beneficiaries to hospitals for covered hospital outpatient services without regard to the outpatient prospective payment system described in this part.

(b) The estimated aggregate amount under paragraph (a) of this section is determined as though the deductible required under section 1833(b) of the Act did not apply.

§419.31  Ambulatory payment classification (APC) system and payment weights.

(a) APC groups. (1) CMS classifies outpatient services and procedures that are comparable clinically and in terms of resource use into APC groups.

Except as specified in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, items and services within a group are not comparable with respect to the use of resources if the highest geometric mean cost for an
item or service within the group is more than 2 times greater than the lowest geometric mean cost for an item or service within the group.

(2) CMS may make exceptions to the requirements set forth in paragraph (a)(1) in unusual cases, such as low volume items and services, but may not make such an exception in the case of a drug or biological that has been designated as an orphan drug under section 526 of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.

(3) The payment rate determined for an APC group in accordance with §419.32, and the copayment amount and program payment amount determined for an APC group in accordance with subpart D of this part, apply to:

(a) APC weighting factors. (1) Using hospital outpatient claims data from calendar year 1996 and data from the most recent available hospital cost reports, CMS determines the geometric mean costs for the services and procedures within each APC group.

(2) CMS assigns to each APC group an appropriate weighting factor to reflect the relative geometric mean costs for the services within the APC group compared to the geometric mean costs for the services in all APC groups.

(b) Standardizing amounts. (1) CMS determines the portion of costs determined in paragraph (b)(1) of this section that is labor-related. This is known as the “labor-related portion” of hospital outpatient costs.

(2) CMS standardizes the geometric mean costs determined in paragraph (b)(1) of this section by adjusting for variations in hospital labor costs across geographic areas.

65 FR 18542, Apr. 7, 2000, as amended at 77 FR 68558, Nov. 15, 2012]

§419.32 Calculation of prospective payment rates for hospital outpatient services.

(a) Conversion factor for 1999. CMS calculates a conversion factor in such a manner that payment for hospital outpatient services furnished in 1999 would have equaled the base expenditure target calculated in §419.30, taking into account APC group weights and estimated service frequencies and reduced by the amounts that would be payable in 1999 as outlier payments under §419.43(d) and transitional pass-through payments under §419.43(e).

(b) Conversion factor for calendar year 2000 and subsequent years. (1) Subject to paragraph (b)(2) of this section, the conversion factor for a calendar year is equal to the conversion factor calculated for the previous year adjusted as follows:

(i) For calendar year 2000, by the hospital inpatient market basket percentage increase applicable under section 1886(b)(3)(B)(ii) of the Act reduced by one percentage point.

(ii) For calendar year 2001—

(A) For services furnished on or after January 1, 2001 and before April 1, 2001, by the hospital inpatient market basket percentage increase applicable under section 1886(b)(3)(B)(ii) of the Act reduced by one percentage point; and

(B) For services furnished on or after April 1, 2001 and before January 1, 2002, by the hospital inpatient market basket percentage increase applicable under section 1886(b)(3)(B)(ii) of the Act, and increased by a transitional percentage allowance equal to 0.32 percent.

(iii) For the portion of calendar year 2002 that is affected by these rules, by the hospital inpatient market basket percentage increase applicable under section 1886(b)(3)(B)(ii) of the Act reduced by one percentage point, without taking into account the transitional percentage allowance referenced in §419.32(b)(ii)(B).

(iv)(A) For calendar year 2003 and subsequent years, by the OPD fee schedule increase factor, which, subject to the adjustments specified in paragraph (b)(1)(iv)(B) of this section, is the hospital inpatient market basket percentage increase applicable under section 1886(b)(3)(B)(iii) of the Act.

(B) The percentage increase determined under paragraph (b)(1)(iv)(A) of this section is reduced by the following for the specific calendar year:

(1) For calendar year 2010, 0.25 percentage point;

(2) For calendar year 2011, 0.25 percentage point; and

(3) For calendar year 2012, a multifactor productivity adjustment (as determined by CMS) and 0.1 percentage point.