

Most cost centers are allocated on different statistical bases. However, for those cost centers where the basis is the same (e.g., square feet), the total statistical base over which the costs are to be allocated will differ because of the prior elimination of cost centers that have been closed.

Close the general service cost centers in accordance with 42 CFR 413.24(d)(1) which states, in part, that “the cost of the nonrevenue-producing cost center serving the greatest number of other centers, while receiving benefits from the least number of centers, is apportioned first.” This is clarified in CMS Pub. 15-1, §2306.1 which further clarifies the order of allocation for step down purposes. Consequently, first close those cost centers that render the most services to and receive the least services from other cost centers. The cost centers are listed in this sequence from left to right on the worksheet. However, the circumstances of an agency may be such that a more accurate result is obtained by allocating to certain cost centers in a sequence different from that followed on these worksheets.

NOTE: A change in order of allocation and/or allocation statistics is appropriate for the current cost reporting period if received by the contractor in writing within 90 days prior to the end of that cost reporting period. The contractor has 60 days to make a decision or the change is automatically accepted. The change must be shown to more accurately allocate the overhead or, if the allocation is as accurate, should be changed due to simplification of maintaining the statistics. The provider must include with the request all supporting documentation and a thorough explanation of why the alternative approach should be used. If a change in statistics is requested, the provider must maintain both sets of statistics until an approval is made. If the request is denied, the provider must use the previously approved methodology. (See CMS Pub. 15-1, §2313.)

If the amount of any cost center on Worksheet K, column 10, has a credit balance, show this amount as a credit balance on Worksheet K-4, Part I column 0. Allocate the costs from the applicable overhead cost centers in the normal manner to the cost center showing a credit balance. After receiving costs from the applicable overhead cost centers, if a general service cost center has a credit balance at the point it is allocated, do not allocate the general service cost center. Rather, enter the credit balance on the first line of the column and on line 34. This enables column 6, line 34, to cross foot to columns 0 and 5A, line 34. After receiving costs from the applicable overhead cost centers, if a revenue producing cost center has a credit balance on Worksheet K-4, Part I, column 6, do not carry forward a credit balance to any worksheet.

On Worksheet K-4, Part II, enter on the first line in the column of the cost center the total statistics applicable to the cost center being allocated (e.g., in column 1, capital-related cost - buildings and fixtures, enter on line 1 the total square feet of the building on which depreciation was taken). Use accumulated cost for allocating administrative and general expenses.

Such statistical base does not include any statistics related to services furnished under arrangements except where both Medicare and non-Medicare costs of arranged-for services are recorded in your records.

For all cost centers (below the cost center being allocated) to which the service rendered is being allocated, enter that portion of the total statistical base applicable to each.

The total sum of the statistical base applied to each cost center receiving the services rendered must equal the total statistics entered on the first line.

Enter on Worksheet K-4, Part II line 39, the total expenses of the cost center to be allocated. Obtain this amount from Worksheet K-4, Part I from the same column and line number of the same column. In the case of capital-related costs - buildings and fixtures, this amount is on Worksheet K-4, Part I, column 1, line 1.

Divide the amount entered on line 39 by the total statistical base entered in the same column on the first line. Enter the resulting unit cost multiplier on line 40. Round the unit cost multiplier to six decimal places. Multiply the unit cost multiplier by that portion of the total statistical base applicable to each cost center receiving the services rendered. Enter the result of each computation on Worksheet K-4, Part I in the corresponding column and line.

After the unit cost multiplier has been applied to all the cost centers receiving costs, the total expenses (line 39) of all of the cost centers receiving the allocation on Worksheet K-4, Part I, must equal the amount entered on the first line of the cost center being allocated.

The preceding procedures must be performed for each general service cost center. Each cost center must be completed on both Worksheets K-4, Part I & II before proceeding to the next cost center.

After all the costs of the general service cost centers have been allocated on Worksheet K-4, Part I, enter in column 7 the sum of the expenses on lines 7 through 38. The total expenses entered in column 7, line 39, must equal the total expenses entered in column 0, line 39.

Column Descriptions

Column 1.--Depreciation on buildings and fixtures and expenses pertaining to buildings and fixtures such as insurance, interest, rent, and real estate taxes are combined in this cost center to facilitate cost allocation.

Allocate all expenses to the cost centers on the basis of square feet of area occupied. The square footage may be weighted if the person who occupies a certain area of space spends their time in more than one function. For example, if a person spends 10 percent of time in one function, 20 percent in another function, and 70 percent in still another function, the square footage may be weighted according to the percentages of 10 percent, 20 percent, and 70 percent to the applicable functions.

Column 2.--Allocate all expenses (e.g., interest or personal property tax) for movable equipment to the appropriate cost centers on the basis of square feet of area occupied or dollar value.

Column 4.--The cost of vehicles owned or rented by the agency and all other transportation costs which were not directly assigned to another cost center on Worksheet K, column 3, is included in this cost center. Allocate this expense to the cost centers to which it applies on the basis of miles applicable to each cost center.

This basis of allocation is not mandatory and a provider may use weighted trips rather than actual miles as a basis of allocation for transportation costs which are not directly assigned. However, a hospice must request the use of the alternative method in accordance with CMS Pub. 15-1, §2313. The hospice must maintain adequate records to substantiate the use of this allocation.

Column 6.--The A&G expenses are allocated on the basis of accumulated costs after reclassifications and adjustments.

Therefore, obtain the amounts to be entered on Worksheet K-4, Part II, column 6, from Worksheet K-4, Part I, columns 0 through 5.

A negative cost center balance in the statistics for allocating A&G expenses causes an improper distribution of this overhead cost center. Negative balances are excluded from the allocation statistics when A&G expenses are allocated on the basis of accumulated cost.

A&G costs applicable to contracted services may be excluded from the total cost (Worksheet K-4, Part I, column 0) for purposes of determining the basis of allocation (Worksheet K-4, Part II, column 5) of the A&G costs. This procedure may be followed when the hospice contracts for services to be performed for the hospice and the contract identifies the A&G costs applicable to the purchased services.

The contracted A&G costs must be added back to the applicable cost center after allocation of the hospice A&G cost before the reimbursable costs are transferred to Worksheet K-5. A separate worksheet must be included to display the breakout of the contracted A&G costs from the applicable cost centers before allocation and the adding back of these costs after allocation. Contractor approval does not have to be secured in order to use the above described method of cost finding for A&G.

Worksheet K-4, Part II, Column 6A.-- Enter the costs attributable to the difference between the total accumulated cost reported on Worksheet K-4, Part I, column 5A, line 39 and the accumulated cost reported on Worksheet K-4, Part II, column 6, line 6. Enter any amounts reported on Worksheet K-4, Part I, column 5A for (1) any service provided under arrangements to program patients only that is not grossed up and (2) negative balances. Including these costs in the statistics for allocating administrative and general expenses causes an improper distribution of overhead.

In addition, report on line 6 the administrative and general costs reported on Worksheet K-4, Part I, column 6, line 6 since these costs are not included on Worksheet K-4, Part II, column 6 as an accumulated cost statistic.

For fragmented or componentized A&G cost centers, the accumulated cost center line number must match the reconciliation column number. Include in the column number the alpha character "A", i.e., if the accumulated cost center for A&G is line 6 (A&G), the reconciliation column designation must be 6A.

Worksheet K-4, Part II, Column 6.--The administrative and general expenses are allocated on the basis of accumulated costs. Therefore, the amount entered on Worksheet K-4, Part II, column 6, line 6, is the difference between the amounts entered on Worksheet K-4, column 5A and Worksheet K-4, Part II, column 6A. A negative cost center balance in the statistics for allocating administrative and general expenses causes an improper distribution of this overhead cost center. Exclude negative balances from the allocation statistics.