

3516. WORKSHEET A - RECLASSIFICATION AND ADJUSTMENT OF TRIAL BALANCE OF EXPENSES

In accordance with 42 CFR 413.20, the methods of determining costs payable under title XVIII involve making use of data available from the institution's basic accounts, as usually maintained, to arrive at equitable and proper payment for services. Worksheet A provides for recording the trial balance of expense accounts from your accounting books and records. It also provides for the necessary reclassification and adjustments to certain accounts. The cost centers on this worksheet are listed in a manner which facilitates the transfer of the various cost center data to the cost finding worksheets (e.g., on Worksheets A, B, C, and D, the line numbers are consistent, and the total line is set at number 75). All of the cost centers listed do not apply to all providers using these forms. An "X" on the cost center line identifies ONLY those cost centers which may be used for the Simplified Method cost report.

Do not include on this worksheet items not claimed in the cost report because they conflict with the regulations, manuals, or instructions but which you wish nevertheless to claim and contest. Enter amounts on the appropriate settlement worksheet (Worksheet E, Part I, line 37; Worksheet E, Part II, line 29; Worksheet E, Part III, Part A, line 18, Part B, line 38; Worksheet H-6, Part II, line 23; Worksheet J-3, line 25; or Worksheet I-3, line 27).

If the cost elements of a cost center are separately maintained on your books, you must maintain a reconciliation of the costs per the accounting books and records to those on this worksheet. The reconciliation is subject to review by the intermediary.

Standard (i.e., preprinted) CMS line numbers and cost center descriptions cannot be changed. If you need to use additional or different cost center descriptions, you may do so by adding additional lines to the cost report. When an added cost center description bears a logical relationship to a standard line description, the added label must be inserted immediately after the related standard line description. Identify the added line as a numeric (only) subscript of the immediately preceding line. That is, if two lines are added between lines 5 and 6, identify them as lines 5.01 and 5.02. If additional lines are added for general service cost centers, add corresponding columns for cost finding on Worksheets B, B-1, J-1, and K-5.

If you checked yes on Worksheet S-2, line 52, indicating that you wish to file this cost report under 42 CFR 413.321 (the simplified cost report method), certain cost centers on Worksheet A will not be used. Section 3504.2, step # 6 identifies the cost centers that will be allowed under this method. Worksheet A, Column C also identifies the cost centers that may be used under the simplified cost reporting method. **Column C is not applicable to the "full" SNF cost report, and as such, is not required to be printed (via the PI file) on the "full" SNF cost report. This column may be printed (via the PI file) on the "simplified" SNF cost report, but is not required.** Overhead cost centers, nursing administration, central supply, pharmacy, medical records & library, and social service are combined into one category, and is reported on line 9.

Submit the working trial balance of the facility with the cost report. A working trial balance is a listing of the balances of the accounts in the general ledger to which adjustments are appended in supplementary columns and used as a basic summary for financial statements.

Cost center coding is a methodology for standardizing the meaning of cost center labels as used by health care providers on the Medicare cost reports. Form CMS 2540-96 provides for preprinted cost center descriptions on Worksheet A. The preprinted cost center labels are automatically coded by CMS approved cost reporting software. These cost center descriptions are hereafter referred to as the standard cost centers. Nonstandard cost center descriptions have been identified through analysis of frequently used labels.

The use of this coding methodology allows providers to continue to use labels for cost centers that have meaning within the individual institution. The four digit cost center codes that are associated with each provider label in their electronic file provide standardized meaning for data analysis. You are required to compare any added or changed label to the descriptions offered on the standard or nonstandard cost center table # 5, in §3595.

Columns 1, 2, and 3.--The expenses listed in these columns must be in accordance with your accounting books and records. List on the appropriate lines in columns 1, 2, and 3 the total expenses incurred during the cost reporting period. Detail the expense between salaries (column 1) and other than salaries (column 2). The sum of columns 1 and 2 must equal column 3. Record any needed reclassification and/or adjustments in columns 4 and 6, as appropriate.

Column 4.--Enter any reclassification among the cost center expenses in column 3 which are needed to effect proper cost allocation.

Worksheet A-6 reflects the reclassification affecting the cost center expenses. This worksheet need not be completed by all providers but must be completed only to the extent that the reclassification are needed and appropriate in the particular provider's circumstances. Show reductions to expenses in parentheses ().

The net total of the entries in column 4 must equal zero on line 75.

Column 5.--Adjust the amounts entered in column 3 by the amounts in column 4 (increase or decrease) and extend the net balances to column 5. The total of column 5 must equal the total of column 3 on line 75.

Column 6.--Enter on the appropriate lines in column 6 of Worksheet A the amounts of any adjustments to expenses indicated on Worksheet A-8, column 2. The total on Worksheet A, column 6, line 75 must equal Worksheet A-8, column 2, line 32.

Column 7.--Adjust the amounts in column 5 by the amounts in column 6 (increases or decreases) and extend the net balances to column 7. Transfer the amounts in column 7 to the appropriate lines on Worksheet B, Part I, column 0, or Worksheet B, Part III, column 0.

Line Descriptions

The trial balance of expenses is broken down into general service, inpatient routine service, ancillary service, outpatient service, other reimbursable, special purpose, and nonreimbursable cost center categories to facilitate the transfer of costs to the various worksheets. For example, the categories "Ancillary Cost Centers" and "Outpatient Cost Centers" appear on Worksheet D using the same line numbers as on Worksheet A.

NOTE: The category titles do not have line numbers. Only cost centers, data items, and totals have line numbers.

Lines 1 and 2.--These cost centers include depreciation, leases, and rentals for the use of facilities and/or equipment, interest incurred in acquiring land or depreciable assets used for patient care, insurance on depreciable assets used for patient care, and taxes on land or depreciable assets used for patient care. Do not include in these cost centers costs incurred for the repair or maintenance of equipment or facilities, amounts included in rentals or lease payments for repair and/or maintenance agreements, interest expense incurred to borrow working capital or for any purpose other than the acquisition of land or depreciable assets used for patient care, general liability insurance or any other form of insurance to provide protection other than the replacement of depreciable assets, or taxes other than those assessed on the basis of some valuation of land or depreciable assets used for patient care.

Many providers incur costs applicable to services, facilities, and supplies furnished to the provider by organizations related to the provider by common ownership or control. 42 CFR 413.17 and CMS Pub. 15-I, chapter 10, require that the reimbursable cost of the provider include the costs for these items at the cost to the supplying organization (unless the exception provided in 42 CFR 413.17(d) and CMS Pub. 15-I, §1010 is applicable). However, if the price in the open market for comparable services, facilities, or supplies is lower than the cost to the supplier, the allowable cost to you may not exceed the market price.

The rationale behind this policy is that when you are dealing with a related organization, you are essentially dealing with yourself. Therefore, your costs are considered equal to the cost to the related organization.

If you include on the cost report costs incurred by a related organization, the nature of the costs (i.e., capital-related or operating costs) do not change. Treat capital-related costs incurred by a related organization as your capital-related costs.

However, if the price in the open market for comparable services, facilities, or supplies is lower than the cost to the supplying related organization, your allowable cost may not exceed the market price. Unless the services, facilities, or supplies are otherwise considered capital-related cost, no part of the market price is considered capital-related cost. Also, if the exception in 42 CFR 413.17(d) and CMS Pub. 15-I, §1010 applies, no part of the cost to you of the services, facilities, or supplies is considered capital-related cost unless the services, facilities, or supplies are otherwise considered capital-related.

If the supplying organization is not related to you within the meaning of 42 CFR 413.17, no part of the charge to you may be considered a capital-related cost (unless the services, facilities, or supplies are capital-related in nature) unless:

- o The capital-related equipment is leased or rented by you;
- o The capital-related equipment is located on your premises or is located offsite and is on real estate owned, leased, or rented by you; and
- o The capital-related portion of the charge is separately specified in the charge to you.

Under certain circumstances, costs associated with minor equipment may be considered capital-related costs. CMS Pub. 15-I, §106 discusses methods for writing off the cost of minor equipment. Three methods are presented in that section. Amounts treated as expenses under method (a) are not capital-related costs because they are treated as operating expenses. Amounts included in expense

under method (b) are capital-related costs because such amounts represent the amortization of the cost of tangible assets over a projected useful life. Amounts determined under method (c) are capital-related costs because method (c) is a method of depreciation.

Line 9.--This cost center normally includes only the cost of nursing administration. The salary cost of direct nursing services (including the salary cost of nurses who render direct service in more than one patient care area) are directly assigned to the various patient care cost centers in which the services were rendered. Direct nursing services include gross salaries and wages of head nurses, registered nurses, licensed practical and vocational nurses, aides, orderlies, and ward clerks.

However, if your accounting system fails to specifically identify all direct nursing services to the applicable patient care cost centers, then the salary cost of all direct nursing service is included in this cost center.

Line 12.--This cost center includes the direct cost of the medical records cost center including the medical records library. The general library and the medical library must not be included in this cost center. Report them in the administrative and general cost center.

Line 14.--Use this line to record the cost of intern and residents if the SNF maintains an intern and residents program.

Lines 16 through 20.--These lines are for the inpatient routine service cost centers.

Line 19.--This cost center accumulates the direct costs incurred in maintaining long term care services not specifically required to be included in other cost centers. A long term care unit refers to a unit where the average length of stay for all patients is 25 days or more. The beds in this unit are not certified for titles V, XVIII, or XIX.

Line 20.--No data should be entered on this line **for cost reports ending on and after November 30, 1999.**

Lines 21 through 33.--These lines are for the ancillary cost centers.

Line 32.--The support surfaces which are classified as ancillary are those listed under the durable medical equipment regional carrier's (DMERC) level 2 and level 3 support surfaces categories. For example, support surfaces which qualify under DMERC's level 2 support surface criteria are low air loss mattress replacement and overlay systems. An example of support surfaces which qualify under DMERC's level 3 support surface criteria is air fluidized beds.

NOTE: Items listed in the DMERC level 1 support surface criteria do not qualify for this category because they are inexpensive and common enough to be considered routine services in all cases.

Lines 34, 35, and 36.--These lines are for outpatient cost centers.

Lines 37 through 51.--These lines are for other reimbursable cost centers.

Lines 37 through 47.--These lines are provided to accumulate costs which are specific to HHA services.

Line 37.--This cost center accumulates the direct costs attributable to HHA administrative and general costs.

Provider-based HHAs are operated and managed in a variety of ways within the context of the health care complexes of which they are components. In some instances, there are discrete management and administrative functions pertaining to the HHA, the cost of which is readily identifiable from the books and records.

In other instances, the administration and management of the provider-based HHA is integrated with the administration and management of the health care complex to such an extent that the cost of administration and management of the home health agency can be neither identified nor derived from the books and records of the health care complex. In other instances, the cost of administration and management of the HHA is integrated with the administration and management of the health care complex, but the cost of the HHA administration and management can be derived through cost finding. However, in most cases, even where the cost of HHA administration and management can be either identified or derived, the extent to which the costs are applicable to the services furnished by the provider-based HHA is not readily identifiable.

Even when the costs of administration and management of a provider-based HHA can be identified or derived, such costs do not generally include all of the general service costs (i.e., overhead costs) applicable to the HHA. Therefore, allocation of general service costs through cost finding is necessary for the determination of the full costs of the provider-based HHA.

If the provider-based HHA can identify discrete management and administrative costs from its books and records, include these costs on line 37.

Similar situations occur for services furnished by the provider-based HHA. For example, in some instances, physical therapy services are furnished by a discrete HHA physical therapy department. In other instances, physical therapy services are furnished to the patients of the provider-based HHA by an integrated physical therapy department of an SNF health care complex in such a manner that the direct costs of furnishing the physical therapy services to the patients of the provider-based HHA cannot be readily identified or derived.

In still other instances, physical therapy services are furnished to patients of the provider-based HHA in an integrated physical therapy department of an SNF health care complex in such a manner that the costs of physical therapy services furnished to patients of the provider-based HHA can be readily identified or derived.

If you maintain a separate therapy department for the HHA apart from the SNF therapy department furnishing services to other patients of the health care complex or are able to reclassify costs from an integrated therapy department to an HHA therapy cost center, then make a reclassification entry on Worksheet A-6 to the appropriate HHA therapy cost center. Make a similar reclassification to the appropriate line for other ancillaries when the HHA costs are readily identifiable.

NOTE: This cost report provides separate HHA cost centers for all therapy services. If services are provided to HHA patients from a shared SNF ancillary cost center, make the cost allocation on Worksheet B.

Line 38.--This cost center includes the direct patient care costs incurred for skilled nursing care to patients who are normally at their place of residence.

Lines 39 through 41.--These lines provide for Physical Therapy - HHA, Occupational Therapy - HHA, and Speech Pathology - HHA cost centers when only HHA patients are serviced from them.

Line 42.--This cost center includes the direct patient care cost incurred for counseling and assessment activities which contribute meaningfully to the treatment of a patient's condition within the context of home health care.

Line 43.--This cost center includes the direct patient care costs incurred for services performed by specially trained personnel who assist individuals in carrying out physicians' instructions under an established plan of care.

Line 44.--Enter the cost of durable medical equipment (DME) rented to home health patients. (See CMS Pub. 11, §206.)

Line 45.--Enter the cost of DME sold to home health patients.

Line 46.--Enter the cost of a home delivered meals program. This service is not reimbursable under title XVIII. However, it may be reimbursable by a State program, and, as such, identify the cost for that purpose.

Line 47.--This cost center includes the direct costs of noncovered home health services for Medicare cost reporting purposes. Noncovered services include homemaker services, home dialysis aide services, private duty nursing, health promotion activities, and day care programs. **Report "telemedicine" services rendered on and after October 1, 2000, on a subscript line of line 47. Transfer this amount to Worksheet H, line 23.50.**

Line 48.--Enter on this line the ambulance cost where the ambulance is owned and operated by the facility.

Line 49.--Use this line if your SNF operates an intern and resident program not approved by Medicare.

Line 50.--This cost center accumulates the direct costs attributable to an outpatient rehabilitation facility. This line should be subscripted to accommodate the following: comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facility (CORF) should use line 50.00, community mental health center (CMHC) should use line 50.10, outpatient physical therapy (OPT) should use line 50.20, outpatient occupational therapy (OOT) should use line 50.30, and outpatient speech therapy (OSP) should use line 50.40. Direct costs normally include such cost categories as are listed on the applicable Worksheet J-1, lines 1 through 21.

Lines 52 through 56.--These lines are for special purpose cost centers.

Line 52.--This cost center includes the costs of malpractice insurance premiums and self insurance fund contributions. Also, include the cost if you pay uninsured malpractice losses incurred either through deductible or coinsurance provisions, as a result of an award in excess of reasonable coverage limits, or as a governmental provider. After reclassification in column 4 and adjustments in column 6, the balance in column 7 must equal zero.

Line 53.--After reclassification in column 4 and adjustments in column 6, the balance in column 7 must equal zero.

Line 54.--Only include utilization review costs of the SNF. Either reclassify or adjust all costs depending on the scope of the review. If the scope of the review covers all patients, reclassify all allowable costs in column 4 to administrative and general expenses (line 4). If the scope of the review covers only Medicare patients or Medicare, title V, and title XIX patients, then (1) in column 4, reclassify to administrative and general expenses all allowable costs other than physician compensation and (2) deduct, in column 6, the compensation paid to the physicians for their personal services on the utilization review committee. After reclassification in column 4 and adjustments in column 6, the balance in column 7 must equal zero.

Line 55.--This cost center accumulates the direct costs attributable to a hospice.

Lines 58 through 63.--Use these lines to record the costs applicable to nonreimbursable cost centers to which general service costs apply. If additional lines are needed for nonreimbursable cost centers than those shown, add a subscript consisting of a numeric subscript code to one or more of these lines. The subscripted lines must be appropriately labeled to indicate the purpose for which they are being used. However, if the expense (direct and all applicable overhead) attributable to any nonallowable cost area is so insignificant as not to warrant establishment of a nonreimbursable cost center and the sum total of all such expenses is so insignificant as not to warrant the establishment of a composite nonreimbursable cost center, adjust these expenses on Worksheet A-8. (See CMS Pub. 15-I, §2328.)

Line 60.--Establish a nonreimbursable cost center to accumulate the cost incurred by the provider for services related to the physicians' private practice. Examples of such costs include depreciation costs for the space occupied, movable equipment used by the physicians' offices, administrative services, medical records, housekeeping, maintenance and repairs, operation of plant, drugs, medical supplies, and nursing services.

This nonreimbursable cost center does not include costs applicable to services which benefit the general population or for direct patient services rendered by SNF-based physicians.

3517. WORKSHEET A-6 - RECLASSIFICATIONS

This worksheet provides for the reclassification of certain costs to effect proper cost allocation under cost finding. Submit, with the cost report, copies of any workpapers used to compute reclassification affected on this worksheet.

COMPLETE WORKSHEET A-6 ONLY TO THE EXTENT THAT EXPENSES HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN COST CENTERS THAT DIFFER FROM THE RESULT THAT IS OBTAINED USING THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THIS SECTION.

Examples of reclassification that may be needed are:

1. Capital-related costs that are not included in one of the capital-related cost centers on Worksheet A, column 3. Examples include insurance on buildings and fixtures and movable equipment, rent on buildings and fixtures and movable equipment, interest on funds borrowed to purchase buildings and fixtures and movable equipment, personal property taxes, and real property taxes. Interest on funds borrowed for operating expenses is not included in capital related costs. It must be allocated with administrative and general expenses.

2. Employee benefits expenses (e.g., personnel department, employee health service, hospitalization insurance, workmen's compensation, employee group insurance, social security taxes, unemployment taxes, annuity premiums, past service benefits and pensions) included in the administrative and general cost center.