

3524. WORKSHEET B, PART I - COST ALLOCATION - GENERAL SERVICE COSTS  
AND WORKSHEET B-1 - COST ALLOCATION - STATISTICAL BASIS

In accordance with 42 CFR 413.24(a), cost data must be based on an approved method of cost finding and on the accrual basis of accounting except where governmental institutions operate on a cash basis of accounting. Cost data based on such basis of accounting are acceptable subject to appropriate treatment of capital expenditures. Cost finding is the process of recasting the data derived from the accounts ordinarily kept by a provider to ascertain costs of the various types of services rendered. It is the determination of these costs by the allocation of direct costs and proration of indirect costs. The various cost finding methods recognized are outlined in 42 CFR 413.24(d). Worksheets B, Part I and B-1 have been designed to accommodate the stepdown method of cost finding. These worksheets may have to be modified to accommodate other methods of cost finding which have been approved for use by the SNF.

Worksheet B, Part I provides for the allocation of the expenses of each general service cost center to those cost centers which receive the services. The cost centers serviced by the general service cost centers include all cost centers within the provider organization, i.e., other general service cost centers, ancillary service cost centers, inpatient routine service cost centers, outpatient service cost centers, special purpose and other reimbursable cost centers, and non-reimbursable cost centers. The total direct expenses are obtained from Worksheet A, column 7.

Worksheet B-1 provides for the proration of the statistical data needed to equitably allocate the expenses of the general service cost centers on Worksheet B, Part I.

To facilitate the allocation process, the general format of Worksheets B, Part I and B-1 are identical. Each general service cost center has the same line number as its respective column number across the top. The column and line numbers for each general service cost center are identical on the two worksheets. In addition, the line numbers of each ancillary, routine, other reimbursable, and non-reimbursable cost centers are identical on the two worksheets. The cost centers and line numbers are consistent with Worksheet A. Note that lines 52 through 54 from Worksheet A are not needed on Worksheets B and B-1. Therefore, line number 55 immediately follows line number 51.

The statistical basis shown at the top of each column on Worksheet B-1 is the recommended basis of allocation of the cost center indicated.

**Change column 3A on Worksheet B-1 to 4A. This aligns the reconciliation column in the SNF cost report with the hospital cost report.**

A change in order of allocation and/or allocation statistics is appropriate for the current fiscal year if received by the intermediary, in writing, within 90 days prior to the end of the fiscal year. The intermediary has 60 days to make a decision or the change is automatically accepted. The change must be shown to more accurately allocate the overhead cost, or if the change is as accurate, should be changed due to simplification of maintaining the statistics. If a change in statistics is made, the provider must maintain both sets of statistics until an approval is made. If both sets of statistics are not maintained and the request is denied, the provider reverts back to the previously approved methodology. The provider must include with the request all supporting documentation and a thorough explanation of why the alternative approach should be used.

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

When closing the general service cost centers, first close the 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 worksheets. However, your circumstances 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.

If the amount of any cost center on Worksheet A, column 7, has a credit balance, this must be shown as a credit balance on Worksheet B, Part I, column 0. Allocate the costs from the applicable overhead cost centers in the normal manner to such 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 to be allocated, such general service cost center must not be allocated. Rather, enter the credit balance in parentheses on line 65 as well as on the first line of the column and on line 75. This enables column 18, line 75, to crossfoot to columns 0 and 4A, line 75. After receiving costs from the applicable overhead cost centers, if a revenue producing cost center has a credit balance on Worksheet B, Part I, column 18, do not carry forward such credit balance to Worksheet C.

On Worksheet B-1, enter on the first line in the column of the cost center being allocated the total statistical base (including accumulated cost for allocating administrative and general expenses) over which the expenses are to be allocated (e.g., for column 1, Capital Related - Buildings and Fixtures, enter on line 1 the total square feet of the building on which depreciation was taken).

Such statistical base including accumulated cost for allocating administrative and general expenses does not include any statistics related to services furnished under arrangements except where:

- o Both Medicare and non-Medicare costs of arranged for services are recorded in your records; or
- o The intermediary determines that you are able to and do gross up the costs and charges for services to non-Medicare patients so that both cost and charges are recorded as if you had furnished such services directly to all patients. (See HCFA Pub. 15-I, §2314.)

For all cost centers (below the first line) to which the capital related cost is 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 base entered on the first line.

Enter on line 66 of Worksheet B-1 the total expenses of the cost center to be allocated. Obtain this amount from Worksheet B, Part I, from the same column and line number used to enter the statistical base on Worksheet B-1 (in the case of Capital Related - Buildings and Fixtures, this amount is on Worksheet B, Part I, column 1, line 1).

Divide the amount entered on line 66 by the total statistics entered in the same column on the first line. Enter the resulting unit cost multiplier on line 67. The unit cost multiplier must be rounded to six decimal places.

Multiply the unit cost multiplier by that portion of the total statistics applicable to each cost center receiving the services rendered. Enter the result of each computation on Worksheet B, Part I, in the corresponding column and line. (See §3500.1 for rounding standards.)

After the unit cost multiplier has been applied to all the cost centers receiving the services rendered, the total cost (line 75) of all of the cost centers receiving the allocation on Worksheet B, Part I, must equal the amount entered on the first line. The preceding procedures must be performed for each general service cost center. Each cost center must be completed on both Worksheets B, Part I, and B-1 before proceeding to the next cost center.

If a general service cost center has a credit balance at the point it is allocated on Worksheet B, Part I, such general service cost center must not be allocated. However, the statistic must be displayed departmentally. No unit cost multiplier is calculated for lines 67 and 69 on Worksheet B-1.

Use lines 68 and 69 of Worksheet B-1 in conjunction with the allocation of capital-related cost on Worksheet B, Part II. Complete line 68 for all columns after Worksheets B, Part I, and B-1 have been completed and the amount of direct and indirect capital-related cost has been determined on Worksheet B, Part II. Line 69 for all columns is the unit cost multiplier used in allocating the direct and indirect capital-related cost on Worksheet B, Part II. Compute the unit cost multiplier after the amounts to be entered on line 68 have been determined by dividing the capital-related cost recorded on line 68 by the total statistics entered in the same column on the first line. Round the unit cost multiplier to six decimal places. (See instructions for Worksheet B, Part II, for the complete methodology and exceptions.)

After the costs of the general service cost center have been allocated on Worksheet B, Part I, enter in column 16 the sum of the costs in columns 4A through 15 for lines 16 through 63.

When an adjustment is required to expenses after cost allocation, show the amount applicable to each cost center in column 17 of Worksheet B, Part I. A corresponding adjustment to Worksheet B, Part II, may be applicable for capital-related cost adjustments. You must submit a supporting worksheet showing the computation of the adjustment in addition to completing Worksheet B-2.

Some examples of adjustments which may be required to expenses after cost allocation are (1) the allocation of available costs between the certified portion and the noncertified portion of a distinct part provider and (2) costs attributable to unoccupied beds of an SNF with restrictive admission policy. (See HCFA Pub. 15-I, §§2342 - 2344.3.)

**Line 20 is not used on Worksheets B and B-1.**

After the adjustments have been made on Worksheet B, Part I, column 17, adjust the amounts in column 16 by the amounts in column 17 and extend the new balances to column 18 for each line. The total costs entered in column 18, line 66, must equal the total costs entered in column 0, line 66.

Transfer the totals in column 18, lines 21 through 33 (ancillary service cost centers) and lines 34, 35, and 36 (outpatient service cost centers) to Worksheet C, column 1, lines 21 through 36.

Transfer the totals in column 18:

From Worksheet B, Part I, Column 18

To Worksheet D-1, Line 5

Line 16, SNF

For SNF

Line 18, NF

For Titles V or XIX. For NF (when you answer "yes" to question on Wkst. S-2, line 43).

Sum of lines 16 and 18

Line 18.1, ICF/MR

For Title XIX. For ICF/MR (when you answer yes to question on Wkst. S-2, line 49).

Transfer the direct SNF-based HHA costs in column 18, lines 37 through 47, to Worksheet H-4, Part I, column 1, lines as indicated. **Transfer the HHA-Telemedicine cost in column 18, line 47.1 to Worksheet H-4, line 13.1.**

Transfer the total SNF-based outpatient rehabilitation provider costs in column 18, line 50, to the applicable Worksheet J-1, Part I, column 0, line 18.

The non-reimbursable cost center totals, lines 58 through 63, are not transferred.

### 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.

Column 2.--Providers that do not directly assign the depreciation on movable equipment and expenses pertaining to movable equipment such as insurance, interest, and rent as part of their normal accounting systems must accumulate the expenses in this cost center.

Column 4.--Allocate the administrative and general expenses on the basis of accumulated costs. Therefore, the amount entered on Worksheet B-1, column 4, line 4, is the difference between the amount on Worksheet B, Part I, column 4A and the amount entered on Worksheet B-1, column 4A.

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.

3524.1 Worksheet B, Part III - Cost Allocation - General Service Costs with Less Than 1500 Program Days, and Worksheet B-1, Part II - Cost Allocation - Statistical Basis with Less Than 1500 Program Days.--

Complete this worksheet **only** if you answered yes on Worksheet S-2 question # 52. Worksheet B, Part III provides the allocation of the expenses of each general service cost center with **less than 1500 Medicare days** to those cost centers which receive the services. The total direct expenses are obtained from Worksheet A, column 7. The cost centers and line numbers are consistent with Worksheet A. Note that several lines from Worksheet A are not needed on Worksheets B, Part III and B-1, Part II.

The general service cost centers listed on Worksheet A, column 7, lines 1-9, are listed in the order they are combined on Worksheet B, Part III, columns 1, 2, 3, and 4, line 15.1.

**To Worksheet B, Part III****From Worksheet A, Column 7**

Column 1	Sum of lines 1, 2, 5, and 7 *
Column 2	Line 3
Column 3	Sum of lines 6, 8, and 9
Column 4	Line 4

\* Due to consolidation of HCFA 2540S-97 into HCFA 2540-96, Capital - Interest account replaced one of three accounts in HCFA 2540-96, which are Capital-Related Costs - Building & Fixture, Administrative and General, and Interest Expense.

Column 0, line 15.1 is the total of columns 1 through 4, line 15.1.

The amounts on Worksheet B, Part III, column 0, lines 16 through 33, 59, and 63 are transferred from Worksheet A, column 7, lines 16 through 33, 59, and 63.

Worksheet B-1, Part II provides for the proration of the statistical data with **less than 1500 Medicare days** needed to equitably allocate the expenses of the general service cost centers on Worksheet B, Part III.

The statistical basis shown at the top of each column on Worksheet B-1, Part II is the basis of allocation of the cost centers indicated. Total statistics indicated on Worksheet B-1, Part II line 71 refers to the sum of the statistics reported on lines 16 through 63 of Worksheet B-1, Part II. For the allocation of administrative and general costs in column 4, lines 16 through 63 are obtained from Worksheet B, Part III, sum of columns 0 through 3, lines 16 through 63.

If the amount of any combined cost center on Worksheet A, column 7 has a credit balance, this amount must be shown as a credit balance on Worksheet B, Part III, column 0. If a revenue producing cost center has a credit balance on Worksheet B, Part III, column 5, do not carry forward such credit balance to Worksheet C.

On Worksheet B-1, Part II, enter on line 71 in the column of the cost center group being allocated, the total statistical base (including accumulated cost for allocating administrative and general expenses) over which the expenses are allocated (e.g., for column 1, capital costs, enter on line 71 the total square feet of the building on which depreciation was taken).

For all cost centers to which the capital cost group are 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 base entered on line 71.

Enter on line 70 of Worksheet B-1, Part II, the total expenses of the cost centers to be allocated; they are obtained from Worksheet B, Part III, line 15.1, columns 1 through 4.

Divide the amount entered on line 70 by the total statistics entered on line 71. Enter the resulting unit cost multiplier on line 72. The unit cost multiplier must be rounded to six decimals.

Multiply the unit cost multiplier by the portion of the total statistics applicable to each cost center receiving the services rendered. Enter the result of each computation on Worksheet B, Part III in the corresponding column and line. (See §3500.1 for rounding standards.)

After the unit cost multiplier has been applied to all the cost centers receiving the services rendered, the total cost (line 70) of all the cost centers receiving the allocation on Worksheet B, Part III must equal the amount entered on line 15.1. The preceding procedures must be performed for each general service cost center group. Each cost center group must be completed on both Worksheets B, Part III and B-1, Part II before proceeding to the next cost center group.

If a general service cost group (after combining centers) has a credit balance at the point it is to be allocated on Worksheet B, Part III, such general service costs must not be allocated. The statistic must be displayed departmentally, but not the unit cost multiplier which is calculated for line 72 on Worksheet B-1, Part II.

After the costs of the general service cost group have been allocated on Worksheet B, Part III, enter in column 5, the sum of the costs in columns 0 through 4 for lines 16 through 63. The total cost entered in column 5, line 75 must equal the total costs entered in column 0, line 75.

Transfer the totals on Worksheet B, Part III, column 5, lines 21 through 33 (ancillary service cost centers) to Worksheet C, column 1 lines 21 through 33.

The non-reimbursable cost center totals, lines 59 and 63, are not transferred.