

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Aging and Long-Term Support Administration PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600

February 1, 2019

ALTSA: NH #2019-004 19-04-NH/HHA/CLIA - NOTICE OF FINAL RULE ADJUSTING CIVIL MONETARY PENALTIES (CMP) AMOUNTS FOR INFLATION

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

The Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 (Sec. 701 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, Pub. L. 114-74) amends the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990 (Pub. L 101-410). It requires agencies to make annual inflation adjustments through final rulemaking, published in the Federal Register. Prior to 2015, CMPs authorized under the Social Security Act were exempt from inflation adjustments under the law.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has published in the Federal Register on October 11, 2018, a final rule, which adjusts for inflation CMP amounts authorized under the Social Security Act. CMPs increased by a multiplier of 1.02041.

The final rule is effective as of October 11, 2018 and includes Skilled Nursing Facilities, Nursing Facilities, Home Health Agencies and Clinical Laboratories.

The final rule can be found at https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/10/11/2018-22005/annual-civil-monetary-penalties-inflation-adjustment.

CMP amounts will also be posted on the <u>Survey and Certification</u> website.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) published a Quality, Safety & Oversight (QSO) memo (19-04-NH/HHA/CLIA) regarding these adjustments on January 22, 2019.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact <u>Lisa Herke</u>, Nursing Home Policy Program Manager at (509) 225-2819.

Sincerely

Candace Goehring, Director Residential Care Services

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