

MDS Alert

MDS & Billing News

--**Ready for a Medicare Part A reimbursement boost? The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** has announced an increase of approximately \$690 million in payments for SNFs in fiscal year 2008.

SNFs will receive a 3.3 percent payment increase for the fiscal year, which begins on Oct. 1, 2007.

Good news: The new payment rates also continue to include the 128 percent adjustment made to cover the additional services required by nursing home residents with HIV/AIDS.

"Compared to the proposed rule issued in May, the final rule updates some of the variables input for the RUG calculations but won't have a dramatic effect" on rates, relays **Steven Jones, CPA**, with **Moore Stephens Lovelace PA** in Clearwater, FL. For example, "the unadjusted federal rates for rural SNFs increased slightly and the urban rates declined slightly," Jones tells MDS Alert. A full copy of the SNF PPS final rule for FY 2008 is available on the CMS Website at www.cms.hhs.gov/.