

Breaking down the proposed hospice SSVI

The Service and Spending Variation Index (SSVI) was introduced in the fiscal year 2027 Hospice Wage Index and Payment Update proposed rule, released April 2, as a new way to measure hospice spending and the potential for fraud and waste.

The SSVI is calculated using claims-based measures, each representing different aspects of hospice utilization, as well as non-hospice spending. All the points are added up to come up with a score between 0-16.

According to CMS, a hospice triggering the 25% threshold on at least one metric is not uncommon, but a hospice triggering the threshold across many distinct metrics “could indicate unusual utilization that may require further review.”

You can see the proposed measures, thresholds and point allocation in the table below.

Utilization metric	Threshold	Points
Providing no Continuous Home Care and no General Inpatient Care	Zero	1
Percentage of Routine Home Care days that are provided in a nursing home or skilled nursing facility	Greater than or equal to 40%	1
Percent of the last two Routine Home Care days of life with visits	Less than or equal to 25th percentile (for FY 2025, the 25th percentile was 85.7%)	1
Percentage of total discharges that are live discharges	Greater than or equal to the 75th percentile (for FY 2025, the 75th percentile was 47.5%)	1
Percentage of discharges with a length of stay of over 180 days	Greater than or equal to the 75th Percentile (in FY 2025, the 75th percentile was 33.2%)	1
Average skilled nursing minutes on Routine Home Care	Less than or equal to 25th Percentile (in FY 2025, the 25th percentile was 9.8 minutes per day)	1
Weekend Routine Home Care days with a skilled visit (nursing, medical social worker, or therapy) as a percentage of total RHC days	Less than or equal to 25th percentile (in FY 2025, the 25th percentile was 4.8%)	1
Percentage of live discharges where beneficiaries return to the same hospice in seven days	Greater than or equal to 75th percentile (in FY 2025, the 75th percentile was 15%)	1
Total non-hospice spending		Points
Between 0 and the lowest spending eighth of hospices (in FY 2025, values greater than 0 and less than or equal to \$6,352.84)		1
Between the lowest eighth and two eighths of hospices (in FY 2025, values greater than \$6,352.84 and less than or equal to \$20,612.10)		2
Between two-eighths and three-eighths of hospices (in FY 2025, values greater than \$20,612.10 and less than or equal to \$42,911.79)		3
Between three-eighths and half of hospices (in FY 2025, values greater than \$42,911.79 and less than or equal to \$76,801.05)		4
Between half and five-eighths of hospices (in FY 2025, values greater than \$76,801.05 and less than or equal to \$133,440.80)		5
Between five-eighths and six-eighths of hospices (in FY 2025, values greater than \$133,440.80 and less than or equal to \$246,123.10)		6
Between six-eighths and seven-eighths of hospices (in FY 2025, values greater than \$246,123.10 and less than or equal to \$517,204.40)		7
Between seven-eighths and highest spending eighth of hospices (in FY 2025, values greater than \$517,204.40)		8

Source: FY 2027 Hospice Wage Index and Payment Update proposed rule.



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