On April 21, 2017, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued [S&C: 17-25-NH](http://cl.exct.net/?qs=da479aeb101b7ea6bed46c6c8fc9c409510d956197873f13499c86b408f6da5c154706f29883a6ee2bd16eccd399cbebf2a61fb69a9ffc46) on the Payroll-Based Journal (PBJ). In the memorandum, CMS notes that it will provide feedback to each facility through monthly Provider Preview reports available in CASPER to help with improved data submission. Providers are encouraged to review this data and make corrections for upcoming submission deadlines. CMS is also working on developing an off-site and on-site audit process that will be utilized to verify the accuracy of the data that is submitted.

AHCA has been advocating for better feedback reports on behalf of members and will provide updates on the audit process when it becomes available. We continue to be a proponent of the audit process being delayed until the PBJ system is improved.

Additionally, CMS noted that Nursing Home Compare now has an indicator reflecting whether providers have submitted data by the required deadlines. Providers that do not submit data for the two consecutive deadlines - February 14, 2017, and May 15, 2017 - will have their overall and staffing Five-Star ratings suppressed. Starting in 2018, CMS will utilize data submitted in PBJ for staffing measures in Five-Star.

AHCA continues advocacy efforts to delay the use of PBJ data for public reporting until the data collection system is improved and made more accurate. You can view AHCA's [letter to CMS](http://cl.exct.net/?qs=da479aeb101b7ea64198144a651888d0f8014a0d7c0ad568c28f1a8a2b384bee3b0d8e43e2eab24a4faa96efa156ba3dd5be3406a4f3d26c) on necessary changes to the PBJ data collection system.

Finally, CMS has posted an update of the PBJ manual. Highlights include:

* Clarification on the need for facilities to review the Final File Validation Report after data submission for confirmation that their data has been accepted.
* Clarification that reporting the hire and termination dates are optional.
* Identifying dentists, podiatrists, and vocational service workers as optional positions vs. mandatory positions. AHCA has advocated changing these staffing categories to optional since they are primarily paid for by another source or have limited hours of service.

Providers are encouraged to visit the CMS PBJ [website](http://cl.exct.net/?qs=da479aeb101b7ea6dbdd59c421e95d0337108f06c4a2f0a7545a78254cbd0b3902d55f1935bd996e893631a03ce6b8445ee3e45ec2da0f1b) and download/review the updated PBJ manual and FAQs. As a reminder, data from January 1, 2017 through March 31, 2017 must be submitted by May 15, 2017.

Please contact the AHCA PBJ Mailbox with any questions.