



## Acute Care Hospital, Nursing Home & Ambulance Services

In these days of uncertainty, being able to create "what if" scenarios when it comes to budgeting is extremely valuable to a healthcare organization. Quickly figuring changes in reimbursement levels or numbers of indigent patients enables an institution to project its future in minutes. Mandy Suber, chief of financial services for Calhoun Health Services in Calhoun City, Mississippi, said having the CSS financial and budgeting module "was a lot different from the CPSI system. The CSS system is less time consuming, easier to gather information and play with the numbers with its options and automatic calculations and scenarios."

With CSS, Suber turned a three-month-long process into a three-week job. And she expects the process will go even smoother next year. This year, she only had about six months of history in the system. While Suber acknowledged she spent many hours learning the CSS system, she said the software interface is straightforward and uncomplicated. In fact, she closed the January 2001 books only days after getting the accounting module installed. "I was learning and doing as we went along," Suber said. "With CPSI, I pretty much just used Excel to create manual spreadsheets and then ran histories and averages to do the budget projections," she said. With the combining of Calhoun Health Service's 30-bed hospital with a 120-bed nursing home, the accounting work greatly increased.

"I knew I needed a software package that could streamline the process," Suber said. As a result, the decision was made to replace the CPSI system with the CSS personnel, finance, patient accounting and medical record modules. The all-important budgeting

help came with the finance module. Speaking to other healthcare entities, Suber said "if you have a computer system that will help you with histories, averages and percentages, make use of them. Figure out how to use them. You just have to get in there and play with it."

Suber especially liked CSS ability to create across-the-board percentages and averages. "It's really great. In the past, salaries were a hard item to budget. Using the CSS system, I was able to take a group of salary accounts, apply variable increases depending on the situation and that was it. It was done," she said.

Calhoun City is located in north Mississippi about an hour south of Oxford and about two hours south of Memphis, Tennessee. The hospital opened in 1969 and is county-owned. The facility, and the now associated nursing home, serves the county's 15,000 residents and portions of three surrounding counties

Even before she got to enjoy the budgeting module, Suber took advantage of CSS's features. "CSS was great about creating reports for me to analyze," Suber said. Every month, when she closed the general ledger, she created a supporting schedule detail report, which correlated with the expense report. "You have to work with the software to see what you need. CSS was very accommodating in creating reports. They added three different reports for me." Would she want to go back to spreadsheets, months of budget work and the old CPSI system? "No," Suber said. "I wouldn't want to go back, not at all."