

Update: MedPAC evaluation of Medicare's Hospital Readmission Reduction Program

ISSUE: In response to a Congressional mandate, the Commission evaluated Medicare's Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program (HRRP) in our June 2018 Report to the Congress. We concluded that the HRRP has been successful in reducing readmissions, without an adverse effect on beneficiary mortality. In the course of updating this work to include 2017 readmission rates, we discovered an error in our calculations that resulted in an understatement of 2016 readmission rates. Mortality rates and other years' readmission rates were not affected by the error. In this paper we report corrected 2016 readmission rates and updated our results to include 2017 readmission and mortality rates.

KEY POINTS: While the decline in readmission rates through 2016 is somewhat smaller than we initially reported, the findings are directionally consistent with our earlier results, and the policy conclusions are unchanged.

ACTION: The Commissioners will discuss the staff's analyses.