

Mandated report: The effects of the Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program

ISSUE: The 21st Century Cures Act mandated that MedPAC study whether changes in readmission rates under Medicare’s Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program are “related to any changes in outpatient and emergency services furnished.” This study presents our initial analysis.

KEY POINTS: At this meeting, we will review declines in hospital readmission rates, changes in observation stays, and changes in emergency department visits. We will also examine whether changes in readmission rates are correlated with changes in mortality rates.

ACTION: Commissioners will review the data presented and discuss development of the Commission’s mandated report, which is due in June 2018.