Hospital short stay policy issues

**ISSUE:** As inpatient stays have shortened and some inpatient services have migrated to the outpatient setting in recent years, the issue of whether a patient requires inpatient care or could be treated successfully as an outpatient has received increasing attention. The high profitability of one-day stays under Medicare’s inpatient payment system and difference in payment rates between similar inpatient and outpatient stays has heightened concern about the appropriateness of one-day inpatient stays.

**KEY POINTS:** This presentation provides information on policy options related to inpatient short-stay policy issues, which will be discussed at the March public meeting.

**ACTION:** Commissioners should provide feedback at the March meeting.

**STAFF CONTACT:** Zach Gaumer, Kim Neuman, Stephanie Cameron, and Craig Lisk (202-220-3700)