

Long-term care hospitals: continuing research

ISSUE: What role do long-term care hospitals (LTCHs) play in providing acute and post-acute care to Medicare beneficiaries? What factors predict beneficiaries' use of LTCHs? Where are patients like those using long-term care hospitals treated in areas without LTCHs and how do their costs to Medicare and outcomes compare? Finally, what criteria should Medicare use to define long-term care hospitals and distinguish patients appropriate for them?

KEY POINTS: This mailing material provides the results of continuing research on LTCHs. In this research, we examine LTCHs more closely. We looked at:

- supply of LTCHs in two ways by examining the effect that having a certificate of need for hospitals has on the number of LTCH beds in a state,
- pattern of care by DRG and severity level by age of the facility, ownership, and whether the LTCH is freestanding or a hospital-within-hospital, and
- characteristics that predict beneficiaries' use of LTCHs and other post-acute settings.

Results from these analyses will be presented at this meeting.

ACTION: No action is necessary at this meeting. However, Commissioners should discuss with staff other analyses they think would be useful.

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