MEDPAC Medicare Payment Advisory Commission

MEETING BRIEF

December 6-7, 2007

Assessment of payment adequacy: Home health care services

ISSUE: Each year MedPAC assesses the adequacy of current payments and develops an update recommendation for home health. The key questions are: current payments for home health adequate? How should payments change in 2009?

KEY POINTS: In this paper we begin our application of the Commission's payment adequacy framework to the question of the update for home health services in 2009. For this month, we will discuss the background on the sector and some information on the appropriateness of current costs. We will present preliminary information based on the most recent data available for the following indicators for home health agencies:

- Beneficiaries' access to care
- Changes in the quality of care
- Changes in the supply of agencies
- Changes in the volume of services
- Access to capital markets
- Payments and costs (presented at the meeting)

ACTION: The Commissioners should review the findings and the draft recommendation, which will be presented at the meeting.

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