

Could the efficacy of Medicare's quality infrastructure be improved?

ISSUE: This paper assesses Medicare's current technical assistance and explores the possibility that it could be strengthened to accelerate the pace of quality and efficiency improvement.

KEY POINTS: MedPAC has considered and recommended changes to Medicare payment policy to improve the financial incentive for providers to improve quality and efficiency. To maximize the impact of these policy changes, Medicare's quality improvement infrastructure may need to be strengthened. Some providers may simply not know the best ways to respond to new payment incentives or be otherwise ill-equipped to improve their quality and efficiency.

This paper looks at how technical assistance can best be provided by examining what types of assistance are needed; whether it should be targeted to certain providers; and who should decide what assistance providers' receive.

ACTION: Commissioners should discuss and give staff feedback on content and tone.

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