

Inpatient psychiatric care in Medicare: Trends and issues

ISSUE: Monitoring the adequacy of payments to inpatient psychiatric facilities (IPFs) under the new IPF prospective payment system will be crucial to ensuring access to and quality of inpatient care for Medicare beneficiaries with severe mental illnesses.

KEY POINTS: In this paper, we describe the IPF PPS and report trends in IPF capacity and the use of inpatient psychiatric services. Next, we discuss issues related to the accuracy of Medicare payments for IPF services. Finally, we turn to the development of quality measures for IPFs, with a final reminder that improving the quality of care provided to this vulnerable population will require a broader look at the mental health care system.

ACTION: Commissioners should review the draft June report chapter, discuss issues raised by this research, and determine if there are specific issues that should be pursued further.

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