

Encouraging Medicare beneficiaries to use higher-quality post-acute care providers

ISSUE: Increasing the number of beneficiaries who select better quality post-acute care providers after a hospital stay could improve outcomes and lower costs.

KEY POINTS: We examine the role of hospitals in discharge planning and the factors that influence the beneficiary decision making in the process. We review referral patterns to compare the quality of care beneficiaries received to the quality available from other nearby providers.

ACTION: Commissioners should be prepared to discuss this material and policy options.