

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

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

KEY POINTS: At a previous meeting the Commission reviewed hospital discharge planning, and the factors that influence beneficiary decision making when selecting a PAC provider. Commissioners concluded that permitting hospitals to assist beneficiaries with identifying higher-quality PAC providers could be beneficial for patients and the Medicare program. This paper presents two options for providing this authority.

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