

Medicare's role in motivating and supporting quality improvement

ISSUE: How can Medicare better motivate and support quality improvement?

KEY POINTS: The Commission continues to be concerned about the slow pace of quality improvement and finds that Medicare has a responsibility to exercise its policy levers to accelerate improvement. MedPAC has recommended numerous payment policy changes to encourage quality improvement. These include pay for performance, medical homes, penalties for high rates of readmissions and bundled payment. More recently, the Commission has explored whether other policy levers – specifically, technical assistance and conditions of participation -- can better complement the intent of payment policy and contribute to quality improvement. In consultation with experts in the field, we have developed several proposals intended to improve the effectiveness of current programs and resources.

ACTION: Commissioners should discuss the policy options and provide feedback to staff on both substance and tone.

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