

Mandated report: Impact of home health payment rebasing on beneficiary access to and quality of care

ISSUE: The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) requires the Commission to assess the impact of the law's rebasing of the home health care base payment rate on beneficiary access to care and quality by January 1, 2015.

KEY POINTS: The paper reviews the impact of past payment changes on access and quality to assess the likely impact of the PPACA rebasing. The payment reductions in the PPACA are smaller than past reductions to home health care payments. Past payment reductions suggest that the PPACA rebasing will not have a significant impact on quality or access. Medicare margins for HHAs are likely to remain high if payments are not reduced further. This material was presented at the April 2014 meeting, and this paper includes additional information requested by Commissioners

ACTION: The Commissioners should review the findings and be prepared to discuss at the September meeting.

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