

Preventing avoidable hospitalizations of long-stay nursing facility residents

ISSUE: The Commission's interest in increasing the value of the Medicare program to beneficiaries and taxpayers has resulted in a focus on policies that promote care coordination and increase quality. Care coordination for beneficiaries who reside in nursing facilities (NFs) frequently lacking. Transferring these residents to a hospital for conditions that could have been prevented by the NF exposes beneficiaries to several health risks and unnecessarily raises program spending. Recent initiatives have sought to reduce avoidable hospitalizations of NF residents.

KEY POINTS: This session will summarize several initiatives and strategies to reduce hospitalizations of nursing home residents, themes from our interviews with nursing facilities participating in initiatives to reduce avoidable hospital use, and outcomes of these initiatives to date.

ACTION: Commissioners should review and comment on the material.

STAFF CONTACT: Stephanie Cameron (202-220-3700)