

A P P E N D I X

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**Commissioners' voting  
on recommendations**

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## Commissioners' voting on recommendations

In the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2000, the Congress required MedPAC to call for individual Commissioner votes on each recommendation, and to document the voting record in its report. The information below satisfies that mandate.

### Chapter 1: Medicare in the 21st century: Changing beneficiary profile

No recommendations

### Chapter 2: Producing comparative-effectiveness information

The Congress should charge an independent entity to sponsor credible research on comparative effectiveness of health care services and disseminate this information to patients, providers, and public and private payers.

*Yes:* Behroozi, Bertko, Burke, Castellanos, Crosson, DeParle, Durenberger, Hackbarth, Hansen, Kane, Milstein, Muller, Reischauer, Scanlon, Wolter  
*Absent:* Borman, Holtz-Eakin

### Chapter 3: Update on the Medicare Advantage program and implementing past recommendations

No recommendations

### Chapter 4: Value-based purchasing: Pay for performance in home health care

No recommendations

### Chapter 5: Payment policy for inpatient readmissions

No recommendations

## Chapter 6: An alternative method to compute the wage index

**6A** The Congress should repeal the existing hospital wage index statute, including reclassifications and exceptions, and give the Secretary authority to establish new wage index systems.

*Yes:* Behroozi, Bertko, Burke, Castellanos, Crosson, DeParle, Durenberger, Hackbarth, Hansen, Kane, Milstein, Muller, Reischauer, Scanlon, Wolter

*Absent:* Borman, Holtz-Eakin

**6B** The Secretary should establish a hospital compensation index that:

- uses wage data from all employers and industry-specific occupational weights,
- is adjusted for geographic differences in the ratio of benefits to wages,
- is adjusted at the county level and smooths large differences between counties, and
- is implemented so that large changes in wage index values are phased in over a transition period.

*Yes:* Behroozi, Bertko, Burke, Castellanos, Crosson, DeParle, Durenberger, Hackbarth, Hansen, Kane, Milstein, Muller, Reischauer, Scanlon, Wolter

*Absent:* Borman, Holtz-Eakin

**6C** The Secretary should use the hospital compensation index described in recommendation 6B for the home health and skilled nursing facility prospective payment systems and evaluate its use in the other Medicare fee-for-service prospective payment systems.

*Yes:* Behroozi, Bertko, Burke, Castellanos, Crosson, DeParle, Durenberger, Hackbarth, Hansen, Kane, Milstein, Muller, Reischauer, Scanlon, Wolter

*Absent:* Borman, Holtz-Eakin

## Chapter 7: Issues in Medicare coverage of drugs

**7A** The Congress should direct CMS to identify selected overlap drugs and direct plans to always cover them under Part D. Identified drugs should be:

- low cost
- covered under Part D most of the time.

*Yes:* Behroozi, Bertko, Burke, Castellanos, Crosson, DeParle, Durenberger, Hackbarth, Hansen, Kane, Milstein, Muller, Reischauer, Scanlon, Wolter

*Absent:* Borman, Holtz-Eakin

**7B** The Congress should allow plans to cover a transitional supply of overlap drugs under Part D under the same conditions as the general transition policy applied by CMS.

*Yes:* Behroozi, Bertko, Burke, Castellanos, Crosson, DeParle, Durenberger, Hackbarth, Hansen, Kane, Milstein, Muller, Reischauer, Scanlon, Wolter

*Absent:* Borman, Holtz-Eakin

**7C** The Congress should permit coverage for appropriate preventive vaccines under Medicare Part B instead of Part D.

*Yes:* Behroozi, Bertko, Burke, Castellanos, Crosson, DeParle, Durenberger, Hackbarth, Hansen, Kane, Milstein, Muller; Reischauer; Scanlon, Wolter

*Absent:* Borman, Holtz-Eakin

## **Chapter 8: Skilled nursing facilities: The need for reform**

No recommendations

## **Chapter 9: Analysis of changes to physicians' practice expense payments**

No recommendations

## **Appendix A: Review of CMS's preliminary estimate of the physician update for 2008**

No recommendations

