

Mandated report: Long-term care hospitals

ISSUE: The Pathway for SGR Reform Act of 2013 mandates that the Commission examine the effect of a change in payment for certain Medicare cases in long-term care hospitals (LTCHs). The Commission is to examine how this payment change has affected the quality of patient care in LTCHs; the use of hospice care and post-acute care settings; different types of LTCHs; and the growth in Medicare spending for services in LTCHs.

KEY POINTS: As the first of several meetings where we will discuss this topic, we provide background on the evolution in use and spending on LTCH services, a historical context for LTCH policy, and Medicare's current payment system for LTCHs.

ACTION: Commissioners will provide guidance to staff on the overall approach to fulfilling the mandate and initial findings.