

Examining the Medicare Advantage quality bonus program

ISSUE: In its March 2018 report to the Congress, the Commission made two recommendations to address flaws in the Medicare Advantage quality bonus program, which provides extra payments based on a contract's quality star rating. Star ratings are reported publicly through the on-line Medicare Plan Finder.

KEY POINTS: This analysis reviews how the policy of assigning star ratings at the MA contract level has led to unwarranted bonus payments and inaccurate information provided to beneficiaries. We examine additional specific issues with the star rating system and its components.

ACTION: Commissioners will discuss the analysis and potential next steps.