

Episode-based payments and outcome measures under a unified payment system for post-acute care

ISSUE: The Commission has urged the Congress and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to implement a unified method to pay for all post-acute care (PAC), develop uniform outcomes-based measures of provider performance, and hold PAC providers accountable for their outcomes.

KEY POINTS: The Commission will continue to refine two aspects of the stay-based unified prospective payment system (PPS) for PAC including an episode-based payment design and developing two uniformly defined outcomes-based measures—discharge to community and a measure of potentially avoidable admissions and readmissions in acute care hospitals.

ACTION: At the October meeting, we will discuss staff's planned analyses.