

Assessing payment adequacy and updating payments: Skilled nursing facility services

ISSUE: MedPAC assesses the adequacy of current payments and develops an update recommendation for skilled nursing facilities in 2018. Key questions to consider:

- Are Medicare payments for skilled nursing facility (SNF) care adequate?
- How should Medicare’s payments change for fiscal year 2018?

KEY POINTS: We use the Commission’s payment adequacy framework to discuss the payment update for SNF services for 2018. This framework considers:

- beneficiary access to care (including the supply of providers and volume of services),
- indicators of the quality of care furnished to beneficiaries,
- access to capital markets, and
- changes in Medicare costs and payments.

ACTION: Commissioners should review the findings in preparation for voting on the SNF update recommendation.

STAFF CONTACT: Carol Carter (202-220-3724)

Assessing payment adequacy and updating payments: Home health care services

ISSUE: Each year the Commission examines measures of the adequacy of payments to fee-for-service providers, pursuant to the statutory framework.

KEY POINTS: We examine several factors to determine the adequacy of Medicare's payments for home health services, including access to care (supply of providers and service utilization), quality of care, providers' access to capital, and Medicare payments and costs.

ACTION: The Commissioners should review the draft and be prepared to discuss the update to the home health prospective payment system for 2018 at the January meeting.

STAFF CONTACT: Evan Christman (202-220-3700)

Assessing payment adequacy and updating payments: Inpatient rehabilitation facility services

ISSUE: By law, each year the Commission is required to review Medicare payment policies and to make recommendations to the Congress. The Commission asks whether payments to inpatient rehabilitation facilities (IRFs) are adequate and how they should be updated in 2018.

KEY POINTS: At this meeting, we will review information about the adequacy of Medicare's current payments to IRFs.

ACTION: Commissioners should review the findings in preparation for voting on the draft recommendation.

STAFF CONTACT: Dana Kelley (202-220-3703)

Assessing payment adequacy and updating payments: Long-term care hospital services

ISSUE: By law, each year the Commission is required to review Medicare payment policies and to make recommendations to the Congress. The Commission asks whether payments to long-term care hospitals (LTCHs) are adequate and how they should be updated in 2018.

KEY POINTS: At this meeting, we will review information about the adequacy of current aggregate Medicare LTCH payments. We will look at information about: beneficiaries' access to care, the supply of LTCHs, changes in the volume of services furnished, quality of care, providers' access to capital, and Medicare's payments and costs.

ACTION: Commissioners should review findings and be prepared to discuss at the January meeting.

STAFF CONTACT: Stephanie Cameron (202-220-3729)