

## **Future research directions for hospice payment policy**

**ISSUE:** Over the years, the Commission has identified several issues with Medicare’s hospice payment system.

**KEY POINTS:** Concerns exist about Medicare’s aggregate level of payment exceeding hospice providers’ costs and about distortions in the payment system that favor long hospice stays. In addition, unusual utilization patterns have been observed among some hospice providers. The purpose of this paper is to discuss potential approaches that could be explored to address these issues.

**ACTION:** Commissioners will discuss the issues raised in the material and provide guidance on the potential policy direction.