

Hospital short stay policy issues

ISSUE: As inpatient stays have shortened and some inpatient services have migrated to the outpatient setting over the years, the issue of whether a patient requires inpatient care or could be treated successfully as an outpatient has received increasing attention. The high profitability of one-day stays under the inpatient payment system has heightened concern about the appropriateness of inpatient one-day stays.

KEY POINTS: This paper provides background information on inpatient short-stay policy issues to supplement the content provided to the Commission in September 2014.

ACTION: Commissioners should provide feedback on policy directions.

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