

Mandated report: Impact of home health payment rebasing on beneficiary access to and quality of care

ISSUE: The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) requires the Commission to assess the impact of the law's rebasing of the home health care payment rate on beneficiary access to care and quality by January 1, 2015.

KEY POINTS: The paper reviews the impact of past payment changes on access and quality to assess the likely impact of the PPACA rebasing. The payment reductions in the PPACA are smaller than past reductions to home health care. Past payment reductions suggest that the PPACA will not have a significant impact on quality or access. Medicare margins for HHAs are likely to remain high if payments are not reduced further.

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

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

