

## **Creating incentives to improve dialysis quality and providers' efficiency**

**ISSUE:** The Commission has recommended broadening the dialysis payment bundle as a way to improve providers' efficiency and the quality of care. Services that could be included in an expanded bundle include dialysis drugs that are now separately billable and account for substantial Medicare spending. At issue is whether there are other services that might also be included in an expanded bundle. We focused on four services in which improvements in quality are needed: nutritional care, vascular access care, preventive care, and care coordination services.

**KEY POINTS:** We reviewed the literature and convened an expert panel composed of 10 providers (facilities and physicians) who treat dialysis patients to examine the issues associated with bundling services related to nutrition, vascular access, preventive, and case management services. We asked the expert panel to discuss the options for expanding the bundle, improving care, and monitoring patients' outcomes.

**ACTION:** At the November meeting, we will ask Commissioners to discuss the issues raised in this paper and suggest directions for possible policy options.

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