



mInconnects

Official CMS news from the Medicare Learning Network

## SPECIAL EDITION

Friday, April 28, 2017

### News

Skilled Nursing Facilities: Proposed FY 2018 Payment and Policy Changes

Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities: Proposed FY 2018 Payment and Policy Changes

Medicare Hospice Benefit: Proposed FY 2018 Updates to the Wage Index and Payment Rates

### News

#### Skilled Nursing Facilities: Proposed FY 2018 Payment and Policy Changes

CMS issued a proposed rule (CMS-1679-P) outlining proposed FY 2018 Medicare payment rates and quality programs for Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs). Additionally, CMS released an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (CMS-1686-ANPRM), which solicits comment on potential revisions to the SNF payment system, based on research conducted under the SNF Payment Models Research project.

Proposed Rule Details:

- Changes to payment rates under the SNF Prospective Payment System (PPS)
- SNF Quality Reporting Program
- SNF Value-Based Purchasing (VBP) Program
- End-Stage Renal Disease Quality Incentive Program
- Request for Information
- Survey team composition

For More Information:

- [Proposed Rule](#): CMS will accept comments until June 26
- [Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#): CMS will accept comments until June 26
- [SNF PPS Payment Model Research](#) webpage
- [SNF PPS](#) website
- [SNF QRP](#) website
- [SNF VBP Program](#) website

See the full text of this excerpted [CMS Fact Sheet](#) (issued April 27).

#### Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities: Proposed FY 2018 Payment and Policy Changes

CMS issued a proposed rule (CMS-1671-P) outlining proposed FY 2018 Medicare payment policies and rates for the Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Prospective Payment System (PPS) and the IRF Quality Reporting Program (QRP). In addition to the proposed rule, CMS is releasing a Request for Information to welcome continued feedback on the Medicare Program.

Proposed Rule Details:

- Proposed updates to IRF payment rates

- Proposed removal of 25 percent payment penalty for late transmissions of the IRF- Patient Assessment Instrument
- Proposed refinements to the 60 percent rule presumptive methodology
- Solicitation of comments regarding the criteria used to classify facilities for payment under the IRF PPS
- Proposed technical IRF process revisions
- Proposed changes to the IRF QRP

For More Information:

- [Proposed Rule](#): CMS will accept comments until June 26

See the full text of this excerpted [CMS Fact Sheet](#) (issued April 27).

## Medicare Hospice Benefit: Proposed FY 2018 Updates to the Wage Index and Payment Rates

CMS issued a proposed rule (CMS-1675-P) that would update FY 2018 Medicare payment rates and the wage index for hospices serving Medicare beneficiaries and releases Request for Information within the proposed rule. This proposed rule would update the hospice wage index, payment rates, and cap amount for FY 2018.

Proposed Rule Details:

- Routine annual rate setting changes
- Discussion and solicitation of comments regarding sources of clinical information for certifying terminal illness
- Hospice CAHPS® Experience of Care Survey
- Quality measure concepts under consideration for future years
- New data collection mechanisms under consideration: Hospice Evaluation & Assessment Reporting Tool (HEART)
- Public reporting

For More Information:

- [Proposed rule](#): CMS will accept comments until June 26
- [Hospice Center](#) webpage

See the full text of this excerpted [CMS Fact Sheet](#) (issued April 27).

---

**[Like the newsletter? Have suggestions? Please let us know!](#)**

[Subscribe](#) to MLN Connects. Previous issues are available in the [archive](#).  
This newsletter is current as of the issue date. View the complete [disclaimer](#).

**Follow the MLN on [Twitter](#) #CMSMLN, and visit us on [YouTube](#).**

The Medicare Learning Network®, MLN Connects®, and MLN Matters® are registered trademarks of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

