



PAYMENT REFORM TECHNICAL EXPERT PANEL (TEP) INPATIENT REHABILITATION FACILITY PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT SYSTEM (IRF PPS)

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has contracted with Abt Global, LLC and its partners at Westat and Acumen, LLC to support the Medicare Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Prospective Payment System (IRF PPS). CMS is seeking to enhance and modernize the IRF PPS to reflect current IRF patient complexity and advances in rehabilitation. CMS seeks to strengthen and modernize the IRF PPS by:

- Better aligning payment with patient characteristics and expected resource use;
- Strengthening the relationship between Medicare spending and value;
- Creating a more consistent and coordinated approach to post-acute care (PAC) payment and delivery; and,
- Maintaining program integrity and protecting beneficiary access.

In the (FY) 2027 IRF PPS Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, CMS discussed potential alternative approaches to primary diagnosis and comorbidity models. CMS received public comments on these alternative approaches and seeks to further engage industry experts in a Technical Expert Panel (TEP) on IRF PPS payment reform delivered by its contractors on September 22, 2026.

TEP Goals

The TEP participants will provide input on IRF PPS payment reform, specifically the initial payment reform concepts described in the Request for Information included in the FY27 rule related to classifying primary diagnosis and comorbidities. In considering potential payment reform, TEP participants will be asked to consider the following—

- Beneficiaries' access to IRF care and ability to achieve their rehabilitation goals
- Statutory requirements for reasonable and necessary care
- Potential unintended consequences

For additional information on the TEP, please contact: IRF_PPS@abtglobal.com