



CMS Open Door Forum: Home Health Study and Report

March 2, 2011

L&M POLICY RESEARCH, LLC



Project Purpose

To assist CMS in conducting a home health study and report as required by Congress and outlined in Section 3131(d) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) by providing background and facilitating stakeholder involvement in the creation of an analytic plan for the study and report

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Section 3131(d) (ACA)

- Requires an assessment of home health agency (HHA) costs associated with providing ongoing access to care for **low-income beneficiaries**, those in **medically underserved areas**, and those with varying levels of **severity of illness**. This study will examine:
 - Possible refinements to the Home Health Prospective Payment System (HH PPS) for services that require additional or fewer resources
 - Probable payment changes to reflect resources involved with providing access to home health services for these target populations
 - Potential revisions to outlier payments for the most seriously ill or resource-intensive beneficiaries
 - Operational challenges, implications, and any potential vulnerabilities that a revised payment system may have on CMS and/or HHAs

ACA Section 3131(d) Additional Requirements

- Consider whether severity of illness and access to care can be measured by factors such as:
 - Population density;
 - Variations in costs of providing care to dual-eligibles;
 - The presence of severe or chronic diseases as potentially measured by multiple episodes; and,
 - Poverty status
- Consult with appropriate stakeholders (e.g., advocacy groups for HHAs and Medicare beneficiaries)
- Complete the study with an accompanying report recommending legislative and administrative action to Congress no later than March 1, 2014

Accomplishments to Date

- Completed targeted literature review
- Convened Technical Expert Panel (TEP)
- Completed limited number of stakeholder interviews

Next Steps

- Prepare an analytic plan for proposed research
- Reconvene TEP to review analytic plan
- Submit final analytic plan and preliminary analysis

Open Research Questions

- How can we best define the study populations?
 - What are the characteristics of individuals with high severity of illness who may have difficulty accessing home health?
 - What are the characteristics of low-income beneficiaries who may not be receiving needed home health services?
 - What are the characteristics of medically underserved areas that may potentially lead to a lack of home health access?
- For each of the identified populations, what types of access problems do these beneficiaries face?
- For each of the identified populations, what explains these potential access challenges?
 - Are there any costs of care that are not adequately reimbursed or over-reimbursed?
 - If there are, what are these costs of care?

Open Research Questions

- How can a lack of access to home health care best be identified or measured for these populations?
- Is adequate information currently collected to identify these populations and any distinct costs of providing care to these beneficiaries? If not, what types of information should be collected?

Moving Forward

- Please submit any comments and responses to the open research questions to:

research@Impolicyresearch.com

Thank you for your time and interest.