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To: Congressional Health Staff

**From: Maria Martino
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CMS proposes payment changes for Medicare home health agencies for 2015

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today announced proposed changes to the Medicare home health prospective payment system (HH PPS) for calendar year (CY) 2015. In the rule, CMS projects that Medicare payments to home health agencies in CY 2015 will be reduced by 0.30 percent, or \$58 million, based on the proposed policies. The proposed decrease reflects the effects of the 2.2 percent home health payment update percentage (\$427 million increase) and the rebasing adjustments to the national, standardized 60-day episode payment rate, the national per-visit payment rates, and the non-routine medical supplies (NRS) conversion factor (\$485 million decrease).

The rule proposes changing the face-to-face encounter requirements, establishing a minimum submission threshold for the number of OASIS assessments each home health agency must submit, and revising the HH conditions of participation for speech language personnel. CMS is also inviting comment on a HH value-based purchasing model that it is considering testing in certain states, to begin in CY 2016.

Attached is the fact sheet on this proposed rule and the rule is available at: <http://www.ofr.gov/inspection.aspx>. Please contact the CMS Office of Legislation if you have any questions. Thank you.