

Eli's Rehab Report

Industry Notes: Say Goodbye to Home Health Therapy Money Under MedPAC's Latest Recommendations

If Congress listens to the **Medicare Payment Advisory Commission** (MedPAC), it will pass these changes to home health agency reimbursement this year:

- a rate freeze (0 percent payment update) for 2017;
- two years of rebasing cuts starting in 2018;
- eliminating therapy as a PPS factor in 2018, concurrent with rebasing.

"Home health payments need to be significantly reduced," MedPAC insists in its annual report to **Congress** released in March. Current reductions are "modest, and substantial margins for many agencies are likely to remain, particularly for those that are efficient or focus on higher-paying services."