

Eli's Rehab Report

News Brief ~ Medicare Proposes Higher SNF Payments

Washington, D.C. -- If your rehab services get paid on a skilled nursing facility prospective payment system (SNF PPS), Medicare plans on increasing your payments in 2008. In an April 30 announcement, CMS proposed a payment increase to nursing homes of about \$690 million.

This 3.3 percent increase would affect payment rates to nursing facilities that furnish certain skilled nursing and rehabilitation care to Medicare beneficiaries recovering from serious health problems, CMS said in a press release.

Don't miss: The 2008 proposed rule includes a suggestion to revise the market basket, which now reflects data from fiscal years 1997 to 2004.

You can read more details about the payment increase in the SNF PPS proposed rule for FY 2008 on the CMS Web site at www.cms.hhs.gov/providers/snfpps. CMS expected it to be published in the Federal Register on May 4, 2007, and the agency will accept public comments until June 29.