

Eli's Hospice Insider

Hospice News: MedPAC Moves Forward With Hospice Reimbursement Freeze, Cap Cut

Commissioners also ready call for cap wage adjustment.

The **Medicare Payment Advisory Commission** has finalized its recommendations to Congress for 2021.

In its Jan. 16 meeting, MedPAC commissioners approved a recommendation discussed in its December meeting: freezing hospice rates for 2021 (see Eli's Hospice Insider, Vol. 13, No. 2). The influential advisory body to Congress also approved recommendations to cut the hospice cap by 20 percent and adjust it for wage index.

MedPAC will include the recommendations in its March annual report to Congress. "These reports hold great sway with Congress and the **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services**," say attorneys **Kathleen Rubinstein, Kathleen McDermott, Jacob Harper, and Howard Young** with law firm **Morgan, Lewis & Bockius**. "However, neither Congress nor CMS is required to follow the MedPAC recommendations," the attorneys point out in online analysis.