

Eli's Hospice Insider

Hospice News: OIG Targets Hospice Patients In ALFs, Nursing Homes

The HHS Office of Inspector General would like to see some reimbursement-lowering mechanisms put in place for hospices as well, it notes in its newly released annual report on unimplemented recommendations.

For example: The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** "should modify the payment system for hospice care in nursing facilities, seeking statutory authority, if necessary," the OIG says. The same goes for Assisted Living Facilities, the OIG says in a separate recommendation.

And it should impose a hospital DRG proration penalty when a hospital discharges a patient early to hospice, the OIG adds. The agency judges that about 30 percent of all hospital discharges to hospice care are early discharges. Implementing this change would cut about \$602 million in spending, the OIG estimates.