

Eli's Hospice Insider

Hospice News: Rural Providers Get Some Recognition

Rural providers that feel like Medicare isn't doing enough to help cope with difficulties specific to those areas have some encouraging news.

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** has launched its "first Rural Health Strategy intended to provide a proactive approach on healthcare issues to ensure that the nearly one in five individuals who live in rural America have access to high quality, affordable healthcare," the agency says in a release.

"For the first time, CMS is organizing and focusing our efforts to apply a rural lens to the vision and work of the agency," CMS Administrator **Seema Verma** says in a release. The strategy's goals include improving access to care "through provider engagement and support" and advancing telehealth and telemedicine, CMS says.

More information is online at <http://go.cms.gov/ruralhealth>.