

June 30, 2016

## **HHS proposes changes to Medicare appeals process**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) June 28 issued a [proposed rule](#) that would make changes to the procedures for Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) appeals of payment and coverage determinations for items and services provided to Medicare beneficiaries, in addition to other Medicare appeals. The proposed rule was issued just days before HHS's July 1 deadline to respond in court to show progress in resolving the backlog of ALJ hearings as part of the AHA's [lawsuit](#) challenging the significant delays in ALJ hearings. However, the AHA is concerned that the proposals will barely scratch the surface toward resolving the ALJ backlog. For more on the rule, see the [AHA Special Bulletin](#).

## **AHA RACTrac data collection period opens tomorrow**

The AHA encourages all hospitals to submit data to the quarterly RACTrac survey, available tomorrow through July 22. The free web-based survey helps AHA gauge the impact of Medicare's Recovery Audit Contractor program on hospitals and advocate for needed changes. For more information on the RACTrac initiative, visit [www.aha.org/RACTrac](http://www.aha.org/RACTrac). To register for the survey or for technical assistance, contact RACTrac support at (888) 722-8712 or [ractracsupport@providercs.com](mailto:ractracsupport@providercs.com).