



**American Hospital
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AHA STATEMENT ON CMS FINAL RULE FOR HOSPITAL INPATIENT SERVICES

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August 4, 2014

Today's rule will make it more difficult for hospitals to maintain their commitment to their communities. We are very disappointed that the ACA-mandated Medicare disproportionate share hospital (DSH) cut is significantly higher than originally proposed. While we understand some of the reductions are due to increased coverage, it is unclear how CMS arrived at the remaining reductions. These payments provide vital support to hospitals that serve the most vulnerable patients. That's why we continue to urge Congress to help hospitals and patients by delaying the Medicare DSH cuts for two years.

While we appreciate CMS making refinements to its scoring methodology for the hospital-acquired conditions penalty program, one-fourth of hospitals will continue to be penalized regardless of their improvement in quality. Additionally, the program negatively affects those hospitals caring for older, sicker patients. We will continue to urge Congress to develop an alternative proposal that would more effectively promote hospital quality improvement.

We appreciate CMS' willingness to involve stakeholders on developing a methodology that will more accurately pay for short inpatient stays and we will work with CMS on this important issue.

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