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STATEMENT ON FINAL FY2013 IPPS AND LTCH PPS

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We commend CMS for recognizing that its proposed new cut of 0.8%, approximately \$850 million, in Medicare payments to hospital care would have been detrimental for America's seniors. Hospitals care for patients with complex medical needs and today's rule reflects this reality.

The AHA voiced strong concerns about the coding provision in the proposed rule and we appreciate that CMS listened to the hospital field. Although we remain concerned that CMS continues to implement unnecessary coding cuts for changes in 2008 and 2009, we are pleased that CMS changed course on the new 2010 proposal that would have challenged hospitals' mission of caring.

AHA commends CMS for delaying the full implementation of the 25% rule for long-term care hospitals (LTCHs) for an additional year. Additionally, CMS addressed a gap in their proposal and we are pleased that all LTCHs will now benefit from the delayed implementation in the first year.

Today's rule will help hospitals maintain the resources necessary to continue providing services for the patients and communities they serve.

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