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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Legend Healthcare  
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**Legend Supports MedPAC Position on Site Neutral Reimbursement,  
Rejects AMRPA Study on IRF Reimbursement**

The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission’s (MedPAC) Report to the Congress: Medicare and the Health Care Delivery System states that “a core principle guiding the Commission is that Medicare should pay the same amount for the same service, even when it is provided in different settings.” Legend Healthcare avidly supports MedPAC’s pursuit of a site-neutral payment system for post-acute care.

MedPAC’s report accurately asserts that providers are paid differently for providing the same service simply because of their setting. In response, the ARA Research Institute, an affiliate of the American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association (AMRPA), commissioned consulting firm Dobson | DaVanzo to conduct a study arguing IRF’s are worthy of additional reimbursement for providing the same services also provided in a SNF. After evaluating the AMRPA study along with additional data from CMS and MedPAC, Legend was able to compare data directly from Legend Healthcare facilities. Dobson | DaVanzo states that services provided in an IRF result in better outcomes than services provided at a SNF. Legend found that when comparing FIM data from the March 2014 MedPAC Report on Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Services: Assessing Payment Adequacy and Updating Payments, the FIM gain at an IRF in 2011 and 2012 was 26.5% and 27.3% respectively. In contrast, Legend Healthcare’s facility’s had a FIM gain of 37.2% and 36.4% in the same years. Demonstrating our patient’s higher percentages of improvement, the comparison proves that care provided in a SNF setting has the ability to not only match but exceed the quality of care provided in an IRF setting.

Legend does not agree with our current unbalanced approach to Medicare payments and supports MedPAC’s efforts to reimburse similar amounts to post-acute care settings providing similar services to comparable patients. It is advantageous to the patient and taxpayer to move to a site-neutral payment system now that it is possible to achieve the same, or higher quality, results in both the SNF and IRF setting. In the interest of encouraging all settings to provide efficient, high-quality care, Legend stands by MedPAC in advocating for a site-neutral payment system.

*Legend Healthcare— Legend Healthcare is an innovative provider of Home Healthcare, Physical Therapy, and Skilled Nursing with 17 Long Term Care and Post-Acute Rehabilitation Facilities throughout Texas, please visit [www.legendhc.com](http://www.legendhc.com).*

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