

P.L. 108-173, Approved December 8, 2003 (117 Stat. 2066)
Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act
of 2003

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TITLE IV—RURAL PROVISIONS

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SEC. 409. [42 USC 1395d note] **RURAL HOSPICE DEMONSTRATION.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall conduct a demonstration project for the delivery of hospice care to Medicare beneficiaries in rural areas. Under the project Medicare beneficiaries who are unable to receive hospice care in the facility for lack of an appropriate caregiver are provided such care in a facility of 20 or fewer beds which offers, within its walls, the full range of services provided by hospice programs under section 1861(dd) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(dd)).

(b) **SCOPE OF PROJECT.**—The Secretary shall conduct the project under this section with respect to no more than 3 hospice programs over a period of not longer than 5 years each.

(c) **COMPLIANCE WITH CONDITIONS.**—Under the demonstration project—

(1) the hospice program shall comply with otherwise applicable requirements, except that it shall not be required to offer services outside of the home or to meet the requirements of section 1861(dd)(2)(A)(iii) of the Social Security Act; and

(2) payments for hospice care shall be made at the rates otherwise applicable to such care under title XVIII of such Act.

The Secretary may require the program to comply with such additional quality assurance standards for its provision of services in its facility as the Secretary deems appropriate.

(d) **REPORT.**—Upon completion of the project, the Secretary shall submit a report to Congress on the project and shall include in the report recommendations regarding extension of such project to hospice programs serving rural areas.

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