

The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission's (MedPAC's) June 2004 Report to the Congress contained a chapter, "Defining long-term care hospitals," which included recommendations that the Secretary evaluate LTCHs by establishing facility and patient criteria and LTCH monitoring protocols by Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs). In response to this report, CMS awarded a contract to Research Triangle Institute (RTI), International entitled "Long Term Care Hospital (LTCH) Payment System Refinement/Evaluation," for a thorough examination of the feasibility of implementing the Commission's recommendations. The contract is scheduled for completion at the end of FFY 2004.