Dear Ms. Stankivic,

I would like to provide you and your group with the results of a study we completed that I believe are pertinent to the upcoming Town Hall Meeting on Medicare Classification Criteria for Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities.

We completed a study examining the functional outcomes and discharge location for 3 groups of patients (debility, hip fracture and myopathy) from the Uniform Data System database for the years 2002-03. As documented in the attached abstract, the functional outcomes of all 3 patient groups were quite similar. While not documented in this abstract, we also found that the percentage of patients discharged to home was also similar for all 3 groups of patients. These study results have recently been accepted for publication in the Archives of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation.

The results of our study address the issue of whether patients with medical conditions other than the 13 listed in the 75% rule are appropriate for inpatient rehabilitation treatment. Specifically, as debility patients recover function and have a similar discharge rate to home as patients with hip fracture and myopathy, two 75% rule conditions, the debility patient population warrants consideration for inclusion in the 75% rule.

Thank you for your consideration of this information.

Sincerely,

Patrick Kortebein, MD
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