Regarding your Open Door Forum on 2/9/09 I would like to submit a question (more of a concern) related to your first question.

RTI asks (1) Whether Medical beneficiaries have access to medically necessary rehabilitation services and any potential effect of the "75 Percent Rule" on their access to appropriate outcomes.

As a director of an inpatient rehabilitation unit I am very aware of the denials we face on a daily basis from all manner of payers. First, we deal with many seniors who sign away their Medicare coverage to a third party. These entities routinely deny access to inpatient rehabilitation, and when exceptions are made, the reimbursement is significantly less than when dealing directly with CMS. It is a matter of considerable interest if these third parties profit from this strategy. I believe the government is not getting its money's worth.

I am also concerned about the time consuming process required in prior authorization of an admit to an IRF. Each payer has a mind-numbing process that delays the ability to treat a patient effectively.

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