Senators Cassidy and Hassan Seek Fair Billing Policy Reforms



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Senators Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and Maggie Hassan (D-NH) recently unveiled a comprehensive framework for establishing site-neutral payment policy reforms and reinvesting savings into rural and safety net health care providers. If enacted, these reforms would lower healthcare costs for patients by ensuring that hospitals charge the same prices for the same health care services regardless of where the service is delivered. Under the plan, Medicare reimbursements would be equalized for common outpatient services at hospital-owned offsite locations, ambulatory surgery centers and other clinics. According to Senators Cassidy and Hassan, the plan is being proposed at least partially in response to the prevalence of physician practices and other outpatient sites being acquired by hospitals and health systems, who are often accused of steering patients to the hospital or health system affiliated facilities with the highest Medicare reimbursement rates for the particular outpatient procedure.

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