

Comments and Responses: SPA 20-0015 Targeted Access Payments (TAPs)

Comment: One commenter strongly opposes the proposed changes and states the changes do not model what was discussed with hospitals in 2019 in anticipation of the transition to a new payment method. The commenter contends if Targeted Access Payments (TAPs) cease after 2020, twenty-nine hospitals will effectively receive a 28% cut on this payment stream, which adds to significant fiscal challenges to hospitals that are on the frontline battling COVID-19.

Department Response: The Targeted Access Payment program is funded by a 1/12th GRT tax on the counties. HSD is committed to expending all available funds from the 1/12th GRT tax, even if TAP is no longer in existence in 2021, through alternative programs.

Comment: One Managed Care Organization (MCO) questioned whether Targeted Access Payments (TAPs) are a quarterly payout or a pass-through amount. The same commenter asked if the proposed changes undo what was done with the previous safety net for 2015. Lastly, the commenter inquired if there is an end date for the proposed changes.

Department Response: The proposed payment is exclusively for fee-for-service utilization and does not have an impact on the Managed Care Organizations (MCOs). Payments will be made directly to providers and not passed through the MCOs; therefore, the MCOs should not change any processes currently in effect.