

Medicare Trustees Shorten Lifespan Of Hospital Trust Fund, Predict Part B Premium Hikes

The Medicare Trustees' report says the Medicare Part A trust fund will run out in 2028 -- two years earlier than the trustees estimated last year -- and say Part B beneficiaries that aren't protected from increases could end up paying more for monthly premiums in 2017. The trustees report also says Part D drug costs per enrollee are expected to increase more than per enrollee costs for Parts A and B combined.

The report's findings will not activate the ACA's Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) in 2016, despite worries by some health care stakeholders that it would, and instead the report says that 2017 will be the first year the growth rate is expected to trigger IPAB.