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Summary of Infection Prevention Provisions

- Hospital Value-based Purchasing Program (Title III, Part I, Section 3001) sets incentive payments under the Medicare program hospitals that meet certain performance standards, beginning in FY 2013. Healthcare-associated infections (as measured by the prevention metrics and targets established in the HHS Action Plan) included among initial set of measures.
- Hospital Payment Adjustment for Hospital Acquired Conditions (Title III, Part I, Section 3008) imposes a one percent payment penalty to hospitals in the top quartile of rates of hospital acquired conditions (HACs), beginning in FY 2015. Prior to FY 2015, the Secretary of HHS will provide each hospital with a report of its HAC rate, and will post this information on the Hospital Compare website. This section also requires the HHS to conduct a study on expanding the HAC policy to other facilities under the Medicare program, including inpatient rehabilitation facilities, long-term care hospitals, hospital outpatient departments, skilled nursing facilities, ambulatory surgical centers and health clinics. The study must be submitted to Congress by January 1, 2012.
- National Pilot Program on Payment Bundling (Title III, Part III, Section 3023) establishes a pilot program for integrated care during an episode of care and post-acute care services. Quality measures include:
 - Reducing rates of avoidable hospital readmissions; and
 - Incidence of healthcare-acquired infections.
- Establish Center for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety within the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) (Title III, Subtitle F, Section 3501).
 - To identify, develop, evaluate, disseminate, and provide training in innovative methodologies and strategies for quality improvement practices in the delivery of health care services that represent best practices in health care quality, safety and value.
 - Research requirements include translating evidence into practice recommendations, including practical methods for addressing healthcare-associated infections, including MRSA and VRE infections and other emerging infections, and reducing preventable hospital admissions and readmissions.
- Demonstration projects to address healthcare workforce needs include core training competencies for personal or home care aides that include infection control (Title V, Section 5507).