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◆ **There are signs of life to the national hospital reviews of short stays and high-weighted MS-DRGs (HWDRGs).** A CMS spokesperson said Avar Consulting, a Beneficiary and Family-Centered Care Quality Improvement Organization (BFCC-QIO), “has been tasked to collect medical records relative to HWDRGs during the procurement process.” However, Avar Consulting won’t do the reviews. “The contractor is performing a medical record collection function in advance of contract award to expedite processing,” the spokesperson said. CMS will select a new contractor for the audits. Last year, it suspended short-stay and high-weighted MS-DRG reviews by two QIOs in favor of consolidating them with one national contractor.

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