

Medicare coverage policy and use of low-value care

ISSUE: Some researchers contend that a substantial share of Medicare health care dollars is not spent wisely. Many new services disseminate quickly into routine medical care in fee-for-service Medicare with little or no basis for knowing whether they outperform existing treatments, and to what extent.

KEY POINTS: At the April meeting, we will review the literature on low-value care and present case studies of services that are low value or of unknown value.

ACTION: Commissioners will discuss the material and provide feedback to staff, prior to its inclusion in the forthcoming June report.