

Assessing payment adequacy and updating payments: ambulatory surgical centers

ISSUE: By law, each year the Commission is required to review Medicare payment policies and to make recommendations to the Congress. The Commission examines whether payments to ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) are adequate and how they should be updated in 2019.

KEY POINTS: We evaluate several factors to determine the adequacy of Medicare payments for ASC services: beneficiaries' access to services, ASCs' access to capital, quality of care in ASCs, and changes in ASC revenue from the Medicare program.

ACTION: Commissioners should review the findings in preparation for a discussion at the December 2017 meeting.