

## **Assessing payment adequacy and updating payments: Hospice services**

**ISSUE:** By law, each year the Commission is required to review Medicare payment policies and to make recommendations to the Congress. The Commission asks whether Medicare payments to hospice providers are adequate and how they should be updated in 2021.

**KEY POINTS:** We use the Commission’s payment adequacy framework to discuss the update for hospice services for 2021. This framework considers:

- Access to care: supply of providers, volume of services, and marginal profit
- Quality of care
- Providers’ access to capital
- Medicare payments and providers’ costs

**ACTION:** Commissioners will discuss findings and vote on the draft recommendation, which includes two changes to the hospice aggregate cap.

## **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 2021.

**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 will review the findings and vote on the draft update recommendations at the January 2020 meeting.