

The role of specialists in alternative payment models and accountable care organizations

ISSUE: The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 established two payment paths for clinicians: (1) a payment path for clinicians who participate in advanced alternative payment models (A-APMs) (a subset of APMs) and (2) the Merit-based Incentive Payment System for other clinicians. Some physician specialty societies have expressed the view that many specialists have very limited opportunities to participate in A-APMs.

KEY POINTS: We will examine the landscape of APMs and whether there are opportunities for specialists to participate in them. We will present information on the share of specialists who participate in different types of accountable care organizations (e.g., hospital affiliated and physician-led).

ACTION: Commissioners will discuss the findings and provide guidance to staff on future work at the March meeting.