

## **The coronavirus pandemic and Medicare**

**ISSUE:** There is a great deal of uncertainty as to how the coronavirus pandemic will unfold and its eventual effects on beneficiaries and providers. The effects of the coronavirus pandemic on utilization, costs, access, and providers' financial performance and whether effects are likely to be temporary or permanent are important considerations as the Commission plans for the payment adequacy and other analyses in the March 2021 report. Those effects will vary by geographic market and for individual providers however, this status report focuses on available national level statistics.

**KEY POINTS:** This point-in-time status report based on available data contains our best estimate of the pandemic effects in the first half of 2020.

**ACTION:** Commissioners will discuss the findings in the status report.