

Monitoring the implementation of Part D

ISSUE: One chapter within MedPAC’s June report to the Congress will examine issues related to the implementation of Medicare’s new outpatient prescription drug benefit. The focus will be on how the benefit can balance access, cost, and quality concerns. At this meeting, we will present finding from an expert panel on plan and PBM performance measures and examine how such measures could be used to monitor Part D and evaluate plan sponsor performance.

KEY POINTS:

- Policymakers will need to monitor the implementation of the new Medicare drug benefit to evaluate plan performance and to measure how well Part D meets objectives for cost, quality and access.
- Purchasers of drug benefits (e.g., employers) use performance measures to evaluate how well health plans and PBMs manage their drug benefits. These measures are based on plan and PBM ability to control drug costs, ensure access to needed medications, develop quality and safety procedures, process claims efficiently, and ensure patient satisfaction.
- Many of these performance measures could be used to monitor Part D and evaluate plan performance. Part D sponsors will be required to report much of this data to CMS.

ACTION: Commissioners should provide comments on scope, substance and tone of this research and the draft chapter that includes finding presented at previous meetings.

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