

Payment adequacy in ambulatory surgical centers

ISSUE: In the March 2010 report, the Commission will analyze payment adequacy and payment updates for services furnished in ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs). We will also discuss the mechanism CMS uses to measure changes in ASC input prices.

KEY POINTS: We evaluate several factors to determine the adequacy of Medicare payments for ASC services: beneficiaries' access to services, ASCs' access to capital, and change in revenue from the Medicare program. Based on our findings, the Commission will develop a recommendation for updating the ASC conversion factor in 2011.

ACTION: Commissioners should review the findings in preparation for voting on the recommendation to the Congress at the January meeting.

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