

The extended hospital medical staff

ISSUE: The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 requires the Commission to report on alternatives to the sustainable growth rate (SGR) system. Among the alternatives we have been asked to analyze is a payment policy that might adjust payments based on hospital medical staffs.

KEY POINTS:

Elliott S. Fisher, MD, MPH will present research exploring ways to group physicians into accountable entities based on extended hospital medical staffs.

Dr. Fisher is a Professor of Medicine, Dartmouth Medical School and conducts research with The Center for the Evaluative Clinical Sciences at Dartmouth. He is a general internist whose research focuses on exploring both the causes and the implications for health and health policy of regional variations in Medicare spending and practice. He has broad expertise in the use of Medicare databases and survey research methods for health care evaluation.

ACTION: After Dr. Fisher makes his presentation, Commissioners will have the opportunity to ask him questions and discuss issues that arise, particularly as they pertain to MedPAC's upcoming report on SGR alternatives and Medicare payment policy.

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