

Multispecialty group practice in the U.S.

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 group practices.

KEY POINTS: This month we will present a discussion on multispecialty group practice in the U.S., including background information on the number, size, and type of practices. We will also review published research that compares quality, use of information technology, and spending among solo, small, single-specialty, and multispecialty groups. We will also present a claims analysis that examines beneficiary spending and utilization by practice type.

ACTION: Commissioners should provide feedback on the appropriateness of this material for MedPAC's mandated report on alternatives to the SGR.

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