

Assessing payment adequacy: hospice services

ISSUE: Are Medicare's payments for hospice services adequate? How should payments be changed in 2011?

KEY POINTS: At this meeting, we will examine information about the adequacy of current hospice payments. We will look at information about: 1) beneficiaries' access to care, 2) the supply of providers, 3) changes in the volume of services, 4) quality of care, 5) access to capital, and 6) Medicare's payments and costs in 2007.

ACTION: Commissioners should discuss the findings presented in the attached briefing material and discuss the draft recommendation that will be presented at the meeting. The Commission's recommendation about updating payments for hospice services will be included in the March 2010 report.

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