

Perspectives on physician group practices

ISSUE: Multispecialty group practices offer the potential for better care coordination and efficient resource use. However, research comparing their quality and efficiency to that of other physician practices (single-specialty, solo) is very limited.

To learn more about physician organizations and medical group practices in the U.S., we will hear from three experts who bring a range of perspectives and experiences regarding physician organizations and medical group practices. The speakers are:

- **Lawrence Casalino, M.D., Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Health Studies at the University of Chicago; Co-founder of Coastside Medical Clinic, a family practice in California
- **Lawton R. Burns, Ph.D., M.B.A.**, the James Joo-Jin Kim Professor, and Professor of Health Care Systems in the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania; Director of the Wharton Center for Health Management & Economics
- **Katherine Schneider, M.D., M. Phil.**, Chief Medical Officer of Integrated Resources of the Middlesex Area; Director of Middlesex's participation in CMS's Physician group Practice Demonstration; Director of Community Medicine and faculty member for Middlesex Hospital; Practicing family physician

KEY POINTS:

Key discussion points will include:

- The prevalence, growth, and characteristics of medical group practice in the U.S.
- The benefits and barriers of group practices
- Components of group practices that affect performance on quality measures
- The current financial incentives to form medical group practices
- Lessons to be learned from the successes and challenges of IPAs and PHOs
- Issues that physicians and physician groups encounter when forming a network

ACTION: After the panelists make brief presentations on selected issues, Commissioners will have the opportunity to ask the panelists 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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