



Advising the Congress on Medicare issues

Work plan for Part D research

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Access to Part D claims data will expand the scope of our research

- Information that has informed our work to date
 - Beneficiary surveys
 - Focus groups
 - Enrollment data
 - Plans' benefit designs, formularies, and premiums
- Access to Part D claims data will allow us to better analyze access, quality, and cost

Agenda for future Part D research

- Topics that do not require claims information
 - Many are already underway
 - Most aim to inform chapters for March and June 2009 reports
- Topics that require claims information
 - Most not yet underway
 - Will take longer to analyze

Topics that do not require claims information

- Regular analysis of Part D plans (March report)
- Medication therapy management (MTM) programs
- Beneficiary-centered assignment
- Specialty tiers and the important role of biologics

Topics that require claims information

- Risk adjustment
- Basic questions about use and spending
 - Number of enrollees in the coverage gap
 - Average out-of-pocket spending
 - Drugs and drug classes used most widely
- Geographic variation in Part D spending
- Specialty tiers and out-of-pocket spending

Topics that require claims information (cont'd.)

- Monitor access and use for subpopulations, e.g., low-income subsidy enrollees, residents of nursing facilities
- How is enrollee adherence to medication regimens affected by the coverage gap?
- What relationships are evident between medication adherence and spending for Part A and Part B services?

Topics that require claims information (cont'd.)

- Does access differ for enrollees living in rural areas?
- How do different benefit designs affect spending?
- Are there consistent differences in the management and performance of PDPs versus MA-PDs?
- What is the change over time in average prices for Part D drugs?