

A status report on Part D

ISSUE: Medicare's outpatient prescription drug benefit is about to enter its fifth year of operation. In this session, staff will provide information to help monitor beneficiaries' access to medications, program costs, and describe quality measures currently used for Part D.

KEY POINTS: We will review information about the numbers of stand-alone and Medicare Advantage prescription drug plans participating in Part D for 2010 and the types of benefit designs they offer. We will also discuss trends in premiums, number of plans with premiums at or below the regional thresholds for low-income premium subsidies, and trends in the aggregate spending levels for Part D.

ACTION: Commissioners should provide comments on the scope and substance of this analysis.

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