

**Assessing payment adequacy and updating payments:  
Physician and other health professional services, and An  
alternative to the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS)**

**ISSUE:** By law, each year the Commission is required to review Medicare payment policies and to make recommendations to the Congress. The Commission asks whether payments to physicians and other health professionals are adequate and how they should be updated in 2019. This session will also continue discussion of the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS).

**KEY POINTS:** We examine several factors to determine the adequacy of Medicare's fee-schedule payments for physicians and other health professionals, including: beneficiary access; volume growth; and variation in compensation across specialties.

**ACTION:** Commissioners should review the findings in preparation for discussion at the December meeting.