

April 5, 2012

Mandated report: Medicare payment for ambulance services

ISSUE: The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 requires MedPAC to evaluate the Medicare ambulance payment system. Specifically, MedPAC's mandate is to assess the appropriateness of certain ambulance add-on payments, to determine their effect on providers' margins, and determine if there is a need to reform the Medicare ambulance fee schedule. The report is due June 15, 2013.

KEY POINTS: At the April public meeting we will review the basic elements of the ambulance payment system, such as the fee schedule and the various add-on payments, and describe recent trends in the ambulance industry.

ACTION: Commissioners should discuss the issues raised by this mailing and consider next steps.

STAFF CONTACT: John Richardson or Zach Gaumer (202-220-3700).