

Assessing payment adequacy and updating payments: ambulatory surgical centers

ISSUE: By law, each year the Commission is required to review Medicare payment policies and to make recommendations to the Congress. The Commission examines whether Medicare's FFS payments to ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) are adequate and how they should be updated in 2022.

KEY POINTS: We evaluate several factors to determine the adequacy of Medicare payments for ASC services: beneficiaries' access to services, ASCs' access to capital, quality of care in ASCs, and changes in ASC revenue from the Medicare program.

ACTION: Commissioners will review and discuss the findings at the December 2020 meeting.