

Assessing payment adequacy and updating payments: Physician and other health professional services

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 2018.

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.

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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 payments to ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) are adequate and how they should be updated in 2018.

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 should review the findings in preparation for a discussion at the December 2016 meeting.

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