

Assessing payment adequacy: fee-schedule services

ISSUE: In the March 2012 report, the Commission will analyze payment adequacy for fee-schedule services.

KEY POINTS: We examine several factors to determine payment adequacy for Medicare's fee-schedule payments for physicians and other health professionals. These include beneficiary access to physician services, ambulatory care quality, private insurer rates compared to Medicare rates, and volume growth. In our analysis, we also examine how costs are likely to change in 2013.

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

STAFF CONTACTS: Cristina Boccuti and Kevin Hayes

Assessing payment adequacy: ambulatory surgical centers

ISSUE: In the March 2012 report, the Commission will analyze payment adequacy and payment updates for services furnished in ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs).

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

ACTION: Commissioners should review the findings in preparation for a discussion of the Chairman's draft recommendations at the December meeting.

STAFF CONTACT: Ariel Winter (202-220-3700); Dan Zabinski (202-220-3700).