

Assessing payment adequacy: 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 2015.

KEY POINTS: We examine several factors to determine payment adequacy of Medicare's fee-schedule payments for physicians and other health professionals. These include beneficiary access to physician and other health professional services, ambulatory care quality, private insurer rates compared to Medicare rates, and volume growth.

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

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Assessing payment adequacy: 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 asks whether payments to ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) are adequate and how they should be updated in 2015.

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 at the December 2013 meeting.

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