



February 23-24, 2011

Reforming Medicare's fee-for-service benefit design

ISSUE: The design of Medicare's FFS benefits and cost-sharing requirements, along with the degree to which supplemental coverage fills in that cost sharing, affects beneficiaries' decisions to seek care and the types of providers and services they use.

KEY POINTS: In this session, we will describe the current benefit structure and the supplemental coverage available to beneficiaries. We will also review data on how out-of-pocket spending varies for beneficiaries with different levels of sickness burden, income, and supplemental coverage. We examine current trends in the benefit structure in the private market.

ACTION: Commissioners should provide feedback on this research.

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