

Assessing payment adequacy: Outpatient dialysis services

ISSUE: Are Medicare's payments for outpatient dialysis services adequate? How should payments be changed in 2011?

KEY POINTS: At this meeting, we will examine information about the adequacy of current aggregate outpatient dialysis payments. We will look at information about: 1) beneficiaries' access to care; 2) providers' capacity to furnish care; 3) changes in the volume of services; 4) quality of dialysis care; 5) providers' access to capital; and 6) Medicare's payments and costs in 2011.

ACTION: Commissioners should discuss the findings presented in the attached briefing materials and be prepared to vote on the draft recommendation at the January meeting. The Commission's recommendation about updating payments for dialysis services will be included in the March 2011 report.

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