

Rebalancing Medicare Advantage benchmark policy

ISSUE: When the Affordable Care Act payment reforms that reduced Medicare Advantage (MA) program payments were instituted, there was some concern about whether MA would continue to grow and attract Medicare beneficiaries. However, the fiscal pressure did not have the negative effect that some had predicted. Instead, these payment reforms have resulted in the program generating savings in some areas but paying more for MA enrollees in other areas. Overall, payments and extra benefits are imbalanced geographically, and the MA program is not generating savings relative to FFS payments. In order for the program to realize savings from the efficiency of the MA program, changes to current MA payment structure may be necessary.

KEY POINTS: At previous meetings, the Commission discussed simulations from an alternative approach to the current benchmarks structure.

ACTION: Commissioners will discuss and vote on the draft recommendation.