

Medicare beneficiaries' access to hospital care and near-term changes in Medicare payment policies

ISSUE: With Medicaid coverage expansion, growth in the numbers of privately insured patients, and declines in self-pay patients, there is an expectation that hospitals' private-payer profits will increase. Hospitals' overall financial condition and access are expected to remain strong. However, given changes to Medicare payments that are scheduled under current law, Medicare margins may decrease.

KEY POINTS: The staff will present a series of payment changes and the implications for the commission to discuss.

ACTION: Commissioners will discuss future Medicare hospital payments in context of payment changes scheduled in current law.

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