

Emergency department services provided at stand-alone facilities

ISSUE: We initiated research on emergency department (ED) services provided by stand-alone facilities because of commissioners' interest in emergency services and the recent growth in the number of facilities offering emergency services.

KEY POINTS: We provide background on the characteristics of stand-alone ED facilities, their business models, and their reimbursement under Medicare and other payers. There is a concern that the rapid growth in stand-alone EDs may be encouraged by existing payment policies that pay ED facilities significantly higher rates than urgent care centers for certain services that are provided in both settings.

ACTION: Commissioners should provide feedback on research directions and policy.

STAFF CONTACT: Zach Gaumer and Jeff Stensland (202-220-3700)