

Effects of the coronavirus public health emergency and considerations for MedPAC's 2022 assessment of Medicare payment adequacy

ISSUE: This cycle, the Commission will be recommending payment updates for 2023 and will be examining data from 2020—the first year of the coronavirus public health emergency (PHE)—for many of our payment adequacy indicators. The effects of the coronavirus pandemic on utilization, costs, access, and providers' financial performance and whether effects are likely to be temporary or permanent are important considerations as the Commission plans for the payment adequacy and other analyses in the March 2022 report.

KEY POINTS: The coronavirus PHE has placed strains on the health care system and has proven especially tragic for older adults and frontline health care workers. This status report outlines how the pandemic and related funding and policy changes may affect indicators of payment adequacy in 2020 (and 2021).

ACTION: Commissioners will review and discuss the findings.