

Medicare payment policies to support safety-net providers

ISSUE: The Medicare program strives to ensure access to care for all beneficiaries. However, some beneficiaries, such as those with low incomes, may have more difficulty accessing care. Furthermore, providers who treat high shares of low-income beneficiaries are often disproportionately reliant on public payers, including Medicare and Medicaid, making it difficult to compete for labor and technology with other providers that have higher shares of commercially insured patients.

KEY POINTS: The Commission is beginning a body of work examining safety-net providers, including exploring who they are and how the Medicare program can best support their critical missions.

ACTION: Commissioners will discuss the material and provide guidance on future work.