

Assessing payment adequacy and updating payments: Ambulatory surgical centers

ISSUE: By law, each year the Commission is required to review Medicare payment policies and to make recommendations to the Congress. The Commission examines whether payments to ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) are adequate and how they should be updated in 2020.

KEY POINTS: We evaluate several factors to determine the adequacy of Medicare payments for ASC services: beneficiaries' access to services, ASCs' access to capital, quality of care in ASCs, and changes in ASC revenue from the Medicare program.

ACTION: Commissioners will review the findings and vote on the draft update recommendations at the January 2019 meeting.

Assessing payment adequacy and updating payments: Hospice services

ISSUE: By law, each year the Commission is required to review Medicare payment policies and to make recommendations to the Congress. The Commission asks whether payments to hospice providers are adequate and how they should be updated in 2020.

KEY POINTS: We use the Commission’s payment adequacy framework to discuss the update for hospice services for 2020. This framework considers:

- Access to care: supply of providers, volume of services, and marginal profit
- Quality of care
- Providers’ access to capital
- Medicare payments and providers’ costs

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