

Assessing payment adequacy and updating payments: Hospital inpatient and outpatient 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 Medicare payments to acute care hospitals are adequate and how they should be updated in 2019.

KEY POINTS: At this meeting, we will review information about the adequacy of hospital payment rates. We will look at information about: beneficiaries' access to care, the supply of hospitals, changes in the volume of services furnished, quality of care, providers' access to capital, and Medicare's payments and costs.

ACTION: Commissioners should review findings and be prepared to vote on an update recommendation at the January meeting.