

Using payment to ensure appropriate access to and use of hospital emergency department services

ISSUE: There is a need to maintain access to emergency department (ED) services in rural areas that cannot support a full-service hospital. There are also concerns about growth in emergency department visit volume in urban areas and potentially unnecessary growth in higher-cost ED visits relative to lower-cost physician office visits.

KEY POINTS: The Commission will follow up on its earlier discussions of rural access to emergency services and urban off-campus emergency departments.

ACTION: Commissioners should review the materials for discussion. The Chairman's draft recommendations will be presented at the March meeting.