

**Assessing payment adequacy and updating payments:
Physician and other health professional services; and Medicare
payment policies for advanced practice registered nurses and
physician assistants**

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 physicians and other health professionals are adequate and how they should be updated in 2020. This session will also continue discussion of Medicare payment policies for advanced-practice registered nurses (APRNs) and physician assistants (PAs).

KEY POINTS: We examine several factors to determine the adequacy of Medicare's fee-schedule payments for physicians and other health professionals, including: beneficiary access; volume growth; and variation in compensation across specialties.

ACTION: Commissioners will review the findings in preparation for voting at the January meeting.