

## **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 2021.

**KEY POINTS:** We use the Commission's payment adequacy framework to discuss the update for hospice services for 2021. 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

The Commissioners will also consider a policy option to modify the hospice aggregate cap.

**ACTION:** Commissioners will review and discuss the findings at the December meeting.