

Hospice services: Assessing payment adequacy and updating payments

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 are adequate and how they should be updated in 2015.

KEY POINTS: We use the Commission’s payment adequacy framework to discuss the update for hospice services for 2015. This framework considers:

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

ACTION: Commissioners should review the findings in preparation for discussion at the December meeting.

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