

## **Medicare's coverage of services provided by advanced-practice nurses and physician assistants**

**ISSUE:** Medicare covers and pays for services provided by advanced-practice nurses (APNs—nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists), and physician assistants (PAs).

**KEY POINTS:** The Medicare program generally covers all medically necessary APN and PA services, provided the services are provided by licensed APNs and PAs and that the services are within the APN and PA's scope of practice under state law. The paper discusses Medicare's coverage and billing policies for APN and PA services and presents a claims analysis of the types of services and settings that APNs and PAs bill for under Medicare. The paper also discusses state licensure, state scope-of-practice laws, provider policies, and other payer policies that affect the services APNs and PAs provide.

**ACTION:** Commissioners should review the information and provide feedback for future research.

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