

Medicare's fee-for-service benefit design

ISSUE: The design of Medicare's FFS benefits and cost-sharing requirements, along with the degree to which supplemental coverage fills in that cost sharing, affects beneficiaries' decisions to seek care and the types of providers and services they use.

KEY POINTS: In this session, we will review data on how out-of-pocket spending varies for beneficiaries with different levels of sickness burden, income, and supplemental coverage. We also examine current trends in the benefit structure in Medicare Advantage plans. We will review ideas to restructure the FFS benefit design.

ACTION: Commissioners should provide feedback on this draft chapter.

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