

Assessing payment adequacy: physician and other health professional services

ISSUE: In the March 2011 report, the Commission will analyze payment adequacy and updates for physician services.

KEY POINTS: We examine several factors to determine whether Medicare payments for physician services are adequate. These include beneficiary access to physician services, ambulatory care quality, private insurer rates compared to Medicare rates, and volume growth. In our analysis, we also examine how costs are likely to change in 2012 and discuss a payment update recommendation.

ACTION: Commissioners should review the findings in preparation for making a payment recommendation to Congress.

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Assessing payment adequacy: ambulatory surgical centers

ISSUE: In the March 2011 report, the Commission will analyze payment adequacy and payment updates for services furnished in ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs).

KEY POINTS: We evaluate several factors to determine the adequacy of Medicare payments for ASC services: beneficiaries' access to services, ASCs' access to capital, and change in revenue from the Medicare program.

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

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