

Medicare's health professional shortage areas (HPSA) payment adjustment

ISSUE: The Medicare program makes a payment adjustment to physicians who deliver services in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs).

KEY POINTS: By law, Medicare makes a payment adjustment of 10 percent to physicians based on the care they deliver in a geographic primary care HPSA. The incentive payment was also expanded to psychiatrists practicing in mental health HPSAs. From 2011 through 2015, an additional 10 percent payment adjustment is made for surgeons providing surgical procedures in a primary care HPSA.

ACTION: Commissioners should review the information and provide feedback for the upcoming meeting.

STAFF CONTACT: Kevin Hayes, Kate Bloniarz and Katelyn Smalley (202-220-3700)