

## **Assessing payment adequacy: physician and other health professional services**

**ISSUE:** In the March 2012 report, the Commission will analyze payment adequacy for fee-schedule services.

**KEY POINTS:** We examine several factors to determine payment adequacy for Medicare's fee-schedule payments for physicians and other health professionals. These include beneficiary access to physician and other health professional 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 2013.

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

**STAFF CONTACTS:** Cristina Boccuti and Kevin Hayes

## **Assessing payment adequacy: ambulatory surgical center services**

**ISSUE:** In the March 2012 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 a discussion and vote on the draft recommendations at the January meeting.

**STAFF CONTACT:** Ariel Winter (202-220-3700); Dan Zabinski.