

## Mandated report: Serving rural Medicare beneficiaries

**ISSUE:** The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) of 2010 requires MedPAC to evaluate access to care, quality of care, special rural payments, and the adequacy of Medicare payments to providers in rural areas. The report is due June 15, 2012.

**KEY POINTS:** Over the past year we have been discussing the Commissions' findings regarding the four aspects of the study: access, quality, payment adequacy and special payments. In addition, the Commission has developed a set of principles that should be used to guide expectations regarding rural quality care and rural access to care. These principles can also be used to help guide rural payment policy.

**ACTION:** Commissioners will discuss the findings on rural payment adequacy and discuss whether the paper has adequately captured the principles the Commission has developed over the past year.

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