

## **Effects of adherence to Part D-covered drugs on Parts A and B spending**

**ISSUE:** Medication adherence is viewed as an important component in the treatment of many medical conditions. Past studies that examined the impact of improved adherence on medical service use and costs may have limited applicability to the Medicare population as those studies generally focus on younger population with less complex medical conditions.

**KEY POINTS:** Adherence to appropriate medication therapy could improve health outcomes and has the potential to reduce the use of other health care services. We examined the effects of medication adherence on spending for other medical services among Medicare beneficiaries with selected medical conditions: congestive heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and depression. We present preliminary findings from our analyses and discuss potential implications.

**ACTION:** Commissioners should review the findings and discuss future directions for this research.

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