

## **Congressional request: Medicare beneficiaries' access to care in rural areas (interim report)**

**ISSUE:** In July 2020, the House Committee on Ways and Means requested that the Commission update its June 2012 report on rural beneficiaries' access to care. The Committee also requested information on rural beneficiaries who are dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare, have multiple chronic conditions, or reside in a medically underserved area. Lastly, the Committee requested that the Commission examine factors and trends that may have impacted rural communities since the 2012 report.

**KEY POINTS:** The material examines the longitudinal and cross-sectional trends in the use of clinician services, hospital inpatient services, and hospital outpatient services among urban and rural beneficiaries. We also examine factors that contribute to rural hospital closures and how closures could affect access to care. An interim report is due by June 2021 and a final report by June 2022.

**ACTION:** Commissioners will discuss the material and provide guidance on potential policy directions.