

The context for Medicare payment policy

ISSUE: MedPAC's March Report to the Congress includes an introductory chapter that places Commission's recommendations for Medicare payment policy within a broader health system context and fiscal context.

KEY POINTS: The draft chapter describes the growth in health care spending as a share of all economic activity, and the interrelationships between Medicare and the larger health care delivery system. The chapter covers the drivers of health care spending growth. The chapter also reviews the makeup of the current and future Medicare population and discusses Medicare's long-term fiscal situation.

ACTION: Commissioners should provide comments on the scope, substance, and tone of this draft chapter for the March 2012 report.

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