

Mandated Report: Rural Payment Adjustments

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. In this meeting we will discuss special payments to rural providers.

KEY POINTS: We will discuss special Medicare payment policies such as critical access hospital payments that have the effect of increasing payments to rural providers. We will also discuss Medicare payments for telehealth and use of telehealth in rural areas.

ACTION: Commissioners should discuss the issues raised by this mailing and consider next steps.

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