

Mandated report: Medicare payment for ambulance services

ISSUE: Section 3007(e) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 directs the Commission to conduct a study of the Medicare ambulance fee schedule and submit a report to the Congress by June 15, 2013. The Commission is specifically directed to examine the impacts of certain temporary add-on payments on ambulance providers' Medicare margins.

KEY POINTS: Staff will report on the structure of Medicare's payment system for ambulance services, the level and growth of Medicare payments and beneficiary use, providers' costs relative to Medicare payment, and areas of the benefit that are vulnerable to fraud and abuse.

ACTION: Commissioners are asked to discuss the material presented and provide guidance to staff on options to pursue to fulfill the Congressional mandate.

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