

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 the federal budget picture and health care delivery landscape.

KEY POINTS: The draft chapter describes trends in the growth of health care spending and the factors behind health care spending growth. The chapter also reviews the effect of health care spending growth on beneficiaries, families, and federal and state budgets, and discusses variation in the quality and supply of health care services.

ACTION: Commissioners should provide comments on the scope, substance, and tone of this draft chapter for the March 2013 report.

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