

## **Medicare vaccine coverage and payment**

**ISSUE:** The Covid-19 pandemic has raised awareness of the importance of developing and delivering vaccines against infectious diseases.

**KEY POINTS:** This session will discuss several broad issues related to Medicare vaccine coverage and payment:

- Medicare coverage of vaccines spans Part B and Part D. Under recently enacted law, SARS-CoV-2 vaccines are covered under Part B. In 2007, the Commission recommended all vaccine coverage be moved to Part B. We will discuss this recommendation and the continued rationale for it today.
- Medicare's Part B payment methodology pays for most preventive vaccines based on 95 percent of the average wholesale price, a list price that does not reflect market prices. We will discuss alternatives to this payment approach.

In addition, the session will discuss the status of Medicare's current efforts to measure immunization rates among health care personnel and beneficiaries.

**ACTION:** Commissioners will discuss the policy options on vaccine coverage and payment.