

Medicare vaccine coverage and payment

ISSUE: The coronavirus pandemic has raised awareness of the importance of developing and delivering vaccines against infectious diseases. Medicare coverage of vaccines spans Part B and Part D. 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.

KEY POINTS: At previous meetings, the Commission discussed a policy option that would cover all appropriate preventive vaccines under Part B without cost sharing (similar to MedPAC's 2007 recommendation, with some modifications). In addition, the Commission discussed changes to Medicare's payment rate for Part B-covered preventive vaccines.

ACTION: Commissioners will vote on the draft recommendation.