

Stand-alone emergency departments

ISSUE: We initiated research on emergency department (ED) services provided by stand-alone facilities because of commissioners' interest in the recent growth in the number of facilities offering emergency services.

KEY POINTS: We provide background information on the characteristics of stand-alone EDs, and their business models. In addition, we assess the growth of ED services in markets with and without stand-alone EDs, where these facilities choose to locate, and similarities and differences between patients served at stand-alone EDs and other types of facilities. We also examine the reimbursement of stand-alone EDs under Medicare and by other payers.

ACTION: Commissioners should provide feedback on research directions and policy.

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