



Medicare Payment
Advisory Commission

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Michael E. Chernew, Ph.D., Chair
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June 13, 2024

The Honorable Ron Wyden, Chairman
The Honorable Mike Crapo, Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Wyden and Ranking Member Crapo,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to questions outlined in the White Paper entitled “Bolstering Chronic Care through Physician Payment: Current Challenges and Policy Options in Medicare Part B.” The Commission agrees that improving Medicare’s clinician payment policies, alternative payment models, and payments for telehealth are critically important to Medicare beneficiaries’ access to care. In particular, we appreciate the difficulties faced by beneficiaries who suffer from chronic illness and recognize the importance of crafting Medicare policy that meets their needs.

As part of its mandate from the Congress, each year the Commission assesses beneficiary access to clinician services. Historically, the Commission has found that access has been as good as, or better than, that of privately insured individuals. Nevertheless, the Commission has become increasingly concerned about whether payment updates under current law will remain adequate to ensure beneficiary access to care in the future.

In our June 2024 report to the Congress, released today, we include a [chapter](#) that discusses the history of Medicare’s payments to clinicians, concerns about the adequacy of future payments to clinicians, and alternative approaches to updating such payments. The chapter also discusses approaches to incentivize participation in advanced alternative payment models. I hope this information is a helpful resource as you work to improve care for Medicare’s most vulnerable beneficiaries.

The Commission intends to continue working on these issues. In the meantime, MedPAC staff and I stand ready to discuss these important issues with you and your staff.

We remain ready to assist the Committee as you work to support Medicare beneficiaries’ access to high-quality care.

Sincerely,

Michael Chernew, Ph.D.
Chair