

MEDICARE PAYMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION (MedPAC)

MedPAC is an independent Congressional agency established by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 to advise the U.S. Congress on issues affecting the Medicare program. In addition to advising the Congress on payments to private health plans participating in Medicare and providers in Medicare's traditional fee-for-service program, MedPAC analyzes access to care, quality of care and other issues affecting Medicare.

The Commission's 17 members have diverse expertise in the financing and delivery of health care services. A general surgeon, Karen Borman, MD was appointed to the Commission by the Comptroller General last year for a three year term that can be renewed. The Commission is supported by an executive director and a staff of analysts.

MedPAC meets publicly to discuss policy issues and formulate its recommendations to Congress. Commissioners consider the results of staff research, presentations by policy experts and comments from interested parties. Commission members and staff also seek input on Medicare issues through meetings with staff from congressional committees and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, health care researchers, health care providers and beneficiary advocates.

Two reports, one in March and one in June, are the primary outlet for Commission recommendations. MedPAC also advises Congress through comments on reports and proposed regulations, testimony and briefings for congressional staff.

The next public meeting is September 13-14 in Washington, DC.