

AOS, INC.-Alabama Orthopaedic Society

MedPac Recommendation Would Equalize Pay Rates

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A draft recommendation to Congress released by the U.S. Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) includes a 1% increase in hospital inpatient and outpatient payments for the fiscal year 2013, but includes a draft recommendation to equalize Medicare payment rates for non-emergency evaluation and management (E/M) services between hospital outpatient departments and physician offices. The agency states that increased hospital employment of physicians has resulted in a shift of services from freestanding practices to hospital outpatient departments. However, a spokesperson for the American Hospital Association takes issue with the recommendation, saying that the E/M payment reduction would stifle hospitals that already treat more severe outpatient cases.

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