The SGR Fix: A Pathway to Fundamental Physician Payment Reform?

MODERATOR

Eugene Rich, Mathematica Policy Research

As director of Mathematica's Center on Health Care Effectiveness, Eugene Rich is an expert on the causes of practice variation in medical care, with a focus on how the policy, payment, and practice environment affects health professionals' decisions. He has a longstanding interest in the role of evidence in point-of-care decision making as well as in comparative effectiveness research (CER) and primary care policy. Dr. Rich has authored more than 120 publications on these topics and has been a frequent consultant to federal agencies, foundations, and managed care organizations. Since joining Mathematica in 2010, Dr. Rich has led a number of projects, including an evaluation for the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation focusing on the government’s $1.1 billion investment in CER under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. He also led an effort for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to test an approach to collecting national, policy-relevant data on physicians and their practices. He holds a M.D. from Washington University in St. Louis.

PRESENTERS

James Reschovsky, Mathematica Policy Research

James Reschovsky is a senior fellow who came to Mathematica in 2014 from the Center for Studying Health System Change. He contributes to an array of studies informing the health reform debate, with a focus on payment systems and care delivery. For the National Institute for Health Care Reform, Dr. Reschovsky is conducting an evaluation of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan's patient-centered medical home program; he is also directing a study of the cost of defensive medicine and an evaluation of the impact of benefit design changes on patient costs and service use. In addition, he contributed to recent projects on the relative cost and quality of Minnesota hospitals and physician practices, designed a national survey of physicians and their practices for AHRQ, and developed methods for implementing CMMI’s Bundled Payment for Care Improvement demonstration. Dr. Reschovsky has authored over 110 publications, including many in top health services research and clinical journals. He holds a Ph.D. in public policy studies from the University of Michigan.
Mai Hubbard, Mathematica Policy Research

Mai Hubbard is a senior researcher at Mathematica and director of a project focused on developing physician payment and provider feedback systems that reduce health care costs and improve care quality. She also served as the principal investigator on a project comparing hospital utilization, expenditures, and care coordination for two groups of Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries: those with atrial fibrillation and those with other chronic conditions. Before joining Mathematica in 2009, Dr. Hubbard held research and teaching positions at the University of North Carolina and was a teacher at the Emory Walden Autism Research Center. She has authored book chapters in the International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences and has been published in the American Journal of Medical Quality. She is also a member of the American Society of Health Economists and has presented at its conferences. She holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

DISCUSSANTS

Robert B. Doherty, American College of Physicians

Robert B. Doherty is senior vice president of governmental affairs and public policy for the American College of Physicians (ACP), the largest physician specialty society and second largest medical organization in the United States. ACP represents 141,000 internal medicine physicians and medical students. Mr. Doherty has more than 33 years of health policy experience and is an accomplished presenter at health conferences. From 1979 to 1998, Mr. Doherty worked in the governmental affairs department of the American Society of Internal Medicine (ASIM), joining ACP as senior vice president after it merged with ASIM in 1998. He manages senior staff for ACP’s departments of legislative affairs, public policy, regulatory affairs, and public affairs. Mr. Doherty earned a degree in political science from the American University in Washington, DC.

Stuart Guterman, The Commonwealth Fund

As vice president for Medicare and cost control at The Commonwealth Fund, Stuart Guterman leads a special initiative on advancing Medicare. This project involves analyzing data and the development of policies to improve Medicare as a source of coverage for aged and disabled Americans, as a program that accounts for a large share of federal health spending, and as a platform for implementing and testing new approaches to payment and health care delivery. Mr. Guterman also staffs the Fund’s special initiative on controlling health costs, which focuses on identifying and addressing the drivers of health care spending, as well as several other Fund programs. Before joining the Fund in 2005, he directed the Office of Research, Development, and Information at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. He was a senior analyst at the Congressional Budget Office, a principal research associate in the health policy center at the Urban Institute, and deputy director of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission from 1988 through 1999. He holds an A.B. in economics from Rutgers University and an M.A. in economics from Brown University, and did further work toward a Ph.D. in economics at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.