

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report contains an enormous amount of trend information about utilization and payments under three distinct Medicare special payment systems for rural providers, as well as about capitation payments based on the Medicare adjusted average per capita costs. The challenge we faced was to present our results in a consistent manner across these analyses and to synthesize the findings to allow a cohesive policy discussion of implications for future Medicare payment policies and research. We wish to thank the contribution made to this effort by our RAND colleagues Elizabeth Sloss and Barbara Wynn, who reviewed an earlier draft of the report. Their thoughtful comments helped to strengthen both the presentation of technical content and consideration of policy implications.

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