

Health Care: Medicare Payment for Hospital-Based Physician Services: T-Hrd-87-13



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(Prof. Charles Boehm)

HEALTH CARE: MEDICARE PAYMENT FOR HOSPITAL-BASED PHYSICIAN SERVICES: T-HRD-87-13



BiblioGov. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 22 pages. Dimensions: 9.7in. x 7.4in. x 0.1in. GAO discussed its responses to a series of questions about the hospital-based physician specialties of radiology, anesthesiology and pathology (RAP). These questions dealt with: (1) contractual arrangements between hospitals and physicians; (2) the level of RAP physicians incomes and the rate of their financial return on medical training; (3) Medicare's controls on the volume of these physicians services; and (4) geographic variations in payment rates for their services. GAO found that: (1) both written and verbal arrangements appeared to grant these physicians exclusive practice rights; (2) hospitals staffing arrangements for these physicians were officially open, but in practice, only the physicians with contracts provided services; (3) hospitals had little incentive to bargain with hospital-based physicians to restrain their charges to Medicare beneficiaries; and (4) these physicians earned higher incomes than most other physicians and had the highest financial return on their training. GAO also found that: (1) the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) had no special requirements for prepayment review of RAP claims beyond those normal for all physician services; (2) three of the carriers serving the four geographic areas surveyed developed their own prepayment screens for RAP services; and (3) there was considerable variation in Medicare payments for RAP services across the geographic areas surveyed, which raised concerns over equity and reasonableness of program payments. This item ships from La Vergne, TN. Paperback.

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