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## Medicare: Private Payer Strategies Suggest Options to Reduce Rapid Spending Growth: T-Hehs-96-138

By -

BiblioGov. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 28 pages. Dimensions: 9.7in. x 7.4in. x 0.1in. GAO discussed strategies to curb Medicare spending, which has grown by over 10 percent a year since 1989, twice the rate of the national economy. GAO noted that: (1) Medicare has not used tools used by private health care payers to manage and improve its utilization, reimbursement, and claims policies and procedures; (2) Medicare's smaller categories of services, which are typically less managed and monitored, have displayed much higher growth than its larger categories of services; (3) the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) has been slow to address overpricing and overutilization problems, sometimes taking years to adjust excessively high payment rates; (4) strict statutory constraints and its own burdensome regulatory and administrative procedures hinder HCFA from using such private-sector management tools as case management, preferred providers, or discount negotiation; (5) in an effort to change its role from claims processor to prudent manager, HCFA has initiated demonstrations to explore its use of competitive bidding for certain supplies, case management, and preferred providers; and (6) proposed legislation could give HCFA the funding and flexibility it needs to better manage its contractors and...



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