Disparity in Medicaid Physician Payments in Vascular Surgery

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Medicare vs. Medicaid

- Coverage for citizens >65, ESRD, ALS
- 55 million
- Funding: revenues (42%), payroll taxes (38%), premiums (13%)

July 30, 1965: Social Security Amendments signed into law by Lyndon B. Johnson

Medicaid vs. Medicaid

- Coverage for citizens <133% below federal poverty line
- 77 million
- Funding: state/federal

Physician Fee Schedules

Medicare (RBRVS)
- Physician Work
- Practice Expense
- Professional Liability
- Professional Liability

Medicaid (Equal Access Provision)
- State Determined

Objectives

1. To determine physician reimbursement for common vascular procedures in seven states in the Northeast (CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI, VT)
2. To compare Medicaid reimbursement with resource-based Medicare

Disclosures

I have no actual or potential conflict of interest in relation to this presentation

Enrollment in CMS Programs

ACA Medicaid Expansion (1/1/14)
### Summary

- Medicaid pays 40% less than Medicare on average for common vascular procedures
- Unlike Medicare, there is no clear association between cost and reimbursement in 6 of 7 Northeastern states studied

### Main Limitation

- Cohort group: states belonging to the NESVS

### Implications

1. Balanced Budget Act of 1997 offers relevant comparison
2. Reimbursement issue is magnified considering historically low rates and increasing enrollment.
3. Access to vascular procedures may be limited by payments insufficient to meet resource needs.