

Emory urges Congress to consider all variables in geographic cost variation issue

Citing data compiled by Dartmouth University revealing variation in Medicare spending among various regions of the United States, House and Senate versions of health care reform legislation each contain language addressing variation, and some seek to penalize providers in high-cost regions. While variation does exist, Emory believes that current studies don't account for the unique patient mix in urban areas like Atlanta, or adjust for DSH (disproportionate share hospital) payments, nor do they accommodate the inherent costs of medical education at Emory and most other academic medical centers. We also believe that the impact of higher costs incurred by care for poor and economically disadvantaged patients is measured inadequately. Therefore, Emory and other major academic medical centers are urging Congress to dig deeper and to examine the issue more closely rather than pass punitive legislation. To read more about this important issue, please see these urls:

<http://www.rollcall.com/news/37230-1.html>

<http://www.aamc.org/newsroom/presskits/geographic-differences.pdf>