



# Medicare Bonus Payments in Rural Underserved Areas

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East Texas Rural Access Program  
Physician Survey



# Physician Survey Focus

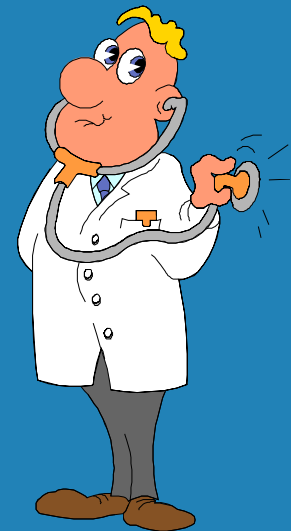
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- Physicians' knowledge of 10% bonus payments
- Effects of administrative procedures
- Perceived value of bonus payments

# Target Physicians

## ∞ Primary Care

- Family Medicine
- General Medicine
- Internal Medicine





# HPSA Counties Surveyed

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- Morris
- Marion
- Rusk
- Panola
- San Augustine
- Sabine
- Tyler
- Hardin
- Jasper (partial county)
- Polk

# Survey Results

## ∞ Knowledge of Medicare bonus?

- Aware of Medicare bonus payments and eligibility
- Taking advantage of bonus payments

# Survey Results

## ∞ Effects of administrative process

- Modifier – QB rural HPSA
- Modifier – QU urban HPSA
- Ease of receiving payments
  - Payments received quarterly

# Survey Results

## ∞ Perceived value of Medicare bonus?

- Physicians very positive about bonus value
- Impact if taken away?
  - Significant
  - Rural physicians' Medicare patient base high
  - ex. 4,802 annual OV X \$4 = \$19,208






# Contributing Factors

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∞ Rural Health Clinics

∞ Hospital in HPSA area closing





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