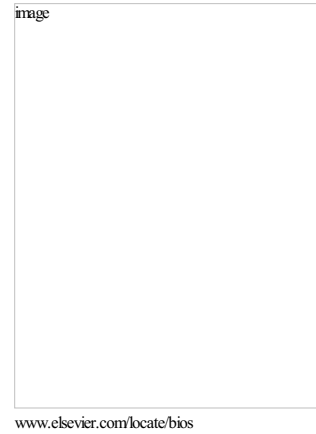


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Introduction: Value-Based Reimbursement

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The landscape of health care reimbursement reform has been changing fast. A practicing colon and rectal surgeon can be forgiven for feeling that the pace of change and the opportunities for confusion have surged. Many are aware of the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) declared intention to transition an increasing share of its reimbursement from volume-based to value-based reimbursement,¹ but the ways in which this transition will take place remain unclear to most of us.

In this issue of *Seminars*, we provide an overview of some of the new and emerging trends in health care value promotion and improvement. Some of these are already substantially affecting the ways that colon and rectal surgeons are evaluated and paid. For example, the CMS Hospital-Acquired Conditions Reduction Program includes deep and organ space wound infections after colon resection as a core measure, contributing to an overall

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