



## Medicare: Excessive Payments Support the Proliferation of Costly Technology: Hrd-92-59

By -

Bibliogov, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 246 x 189 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*. Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO compared Medicare payment levels with providers costs for such high-technology radiology services as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and Computed Tomography, to determine whether the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) has adjusted technical component payments to reflect cost decreases. GAO found that: (1) Medicare's technical component payments for MRI services do not reflect technological advances, reduced equipment costs, and faster scans, all of which are expected to reduce costs and justify future reductions in reimbursement rates; (2) payment levels are primarily based on initial payment levels set by local Medicare carriers, charge-based payments, and fee schedule systems mandated by Congress; (3) in fiscal year (FY) 1990, MRI facilities had higher patient volumes and lower per-scan costs than in FY 1985, primarily since MRI machine upgrades have made them faster, and some providers do more scanning at a lower unit cost, especially in states with limited MRI proliferation; (4) in some geographic areas, such as Florida, there is a large number of MRI providers and much excess machine capacity, and high Medicare payment...

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