

and have determined that this regulation would not have any significant impact on the rights, roles, or responsibilities of State, local, or tribal governments.

We have prepared the following analysis, which together with the rest of this preamble meets all assessment requirements. It explains the rationale for, and purposes of, the rule, details the costs and benefits of the rule, analyzes alternatives, and presents the measures we are using to minimize the burden on small entities. As indicated elsewhere,

we are increasing the physician fee schedule CF for March 1 to December 31, 2003, by 1.6 percent. The provisions of this rule are changing only Medicare payment rates for physician fee schedule services, and are not imposing any new regulatory requirements that will impose a burden on small entities.

Table 10 shows the average change in Medicare payment by specialty. It shows the impact of changes in RVUs, the physician fee schedule update, the combined impact, and includes the effect of corrections made to the RVUs

for several procedure codes. The table is analogous to Table 24 in the December 31, 2002, final rule (67 FR 80037) but includes the revised physician fee schedule update. The tables reflect application of the revised CF for the full calendar year. However, because the increased CF is only in effect from March 1 to December 31, 2003, the actual impacts will be somewhat less than those shown here.

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