



Group Purchasing Organizations, Funding Structure Has Potential Implications for Medicare Costs: Report to Congressional Requesters. (Paperback)

By U S Government Accountability Office

On Demand Publishing, LLC-Create Space, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. GPOs are purchasing intermediaries that negotiate contracts for medical products and services. GPOs contract with vendors and receive a fee from them when providers purchase from the vendor. These fees are a source of operating revenue for GPOs, and they are allowed to collect them if they meet the requirements of a safe harbor to the anti-kickback provision of the Social Security Act-known as the Anti-Kickback statute-which would otherwise prohibit such fees. You raised questions about GPOs contracting practices and about the impact of the GPO funding structure. This report examines (1) GPO contracting practices and the reported effects of these practices; (2) how GPOs are funded and the reported effects of this funding structure. To do this work, GAO sent a questionnaire to representatives of the 5 largest national GPOs about their contracting practices and sources of revenue; reviewed the literature on the effects of the GPO funding structure; reviewed laws, regulations, and guidance on the GPO safe harbor; interviewed representatives from HHS, FTC, the Department of Justice (DOJ), vendors, hospitals, trade associations, and economic and health care experts.



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