

COMPARING PHYSICIANS

If Medicare launches a physician profiling or resource use comparison initiative next year, it would not be the first health care purchaser to do so. The GAO studied these 10 programs for its report.

	Patients	Physicians	Location	Started
Aetna	500,000	15,000	Multistate	2004
BlueCross BlueShield of Texas	60,000	26,000	Texas	2004
Greater Rochester Independent Practice Assn.	120,000	640	New York	1996
Health Insurance BC	4,100,000	8,000	British Columbia	1997
HealthPartners	650,000	27,000	Minnesota	1989
Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union Welfare Fund	130,000	2,000	Nevada	2000
Massachusetts Group Insurance Commission	268,000	19,000	Massachusetts	2004
Minnesota Advantage Health Plan	115,000	N/A	Minnesota	2002
PacifiCare Health Systems	1,500,000	14,000	California	1993
UnitedHealthcare	10,600,000	80,000	Multistate	2005

SOURCE: GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE