

IN THE NEWS

RECRUITMENT MARKET STRONG IN HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY

The market for permanent clinical physician positions is strong in nearly all specialties, with no major weaknesses, according to the January 2001 *Physician Compensation Report*. Among the hottest areas are hematology/oncology, cardiology, gastroenterology, and almost any pediatric subspecialty. "Interventional radiology and pain management" are growing rapidly. In most of these fields, according to the report, the strong demand is pushing up pay levels for the limited number of physicians on the market. Today, for example, a diagnostic radiologist with three years experience in practice can draw at least \$250,000, according to the Physician Compensation Report.

MEDICARE SPENDING TO INCREASE, CBO REPORTS

Medicare spending, constrained in the late 1990s by provider efforts to comply with new payment rules, is likely to rise faster in the next decade because of an increase in the number of beneficiaries, more generous annual payment updates to providers, and recently passed legislation, the Congressional Budget Office reported Jan. 31. Medicare spending, which rose just 1 percent in 1999, grew 3 percent in 2000 and is expected to rise 10.5 percent in fiscal 2001. ☛

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