

May 7, 2013

Cindy Mann
Director
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S3-14-28
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

Re: Medicaid primary care payment increase

Dear Ms. Mann:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to express our strong support for the Medicaid primary care payment increase provision in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and respectfully request the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to share key state-level information with our organizations to help us effectively communicate with our members about the primary care payment increase. This payment increase, although limited to only two years, will improve access to care for Medicaid beneficiaries by encouraging physicians to participate in Medicaid and/or accept new Medicaid patients, an essential goal for the ACA.

Our organizations have grown increasingly concerned that the brief time frame which states had to implement this provision has resulted in confusion both by state employees responsible for administering the program and the physician community. The considerable number of sub-regulatory guidance issued since January related to this provision has contributed to the confusion. One overarching concern shared by our organizations is the lack of a coordinated plan to educate and communicate to eligible providers about the payment increase and steps physicians must take to participate. For example, we continue to hear reports from physicians having difficulty simply locating or accessing their state's self-attestation form.

We appreciate the efforts by CMS staff to educate physicians about the primary care payment increase during a conference call in December 2012. It is imperative to continue to get the word out to physicians about the payment increase and required steps eligible physicians must take to qualify for increased payments. We stand ready and willing to help. To effectively communicate with our members, we respectfully request that CMS share key information with our organizations in a timely manner. Specifically, we request the following information for each state:

1. The date each state's self-attestation process is determined "operational."
2. The date when the provider community has been made aware of the self-attestation process.
3. The date by which providers must self-attest to be eligible for the payment increase for primary care services retroactive to January 1, 2013.

It is our understanding that states were required to include this information in their state plan amendments and therefore, it is readily available to CMS staff. We strongly believe this information is necessary to help us effectively target our communications campaigns to our physician members.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Garikes, the AMA's Director of Federal Affairs. Margaret can be reached at 202-789-7409 or at Margaret.Garikes@ama-assn.org.

Sincerely,

American Medical Association
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Osteopathic Association
American Academy of Pediatrics
American College of Osteopathic Internists
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
American College of Physicians