




Physicians Plead for Streamlined Systems During Energy & Commerce Subcommittee Hearing on MACRA Implementation

House E&C Subcommittee on Health: Medicare Access and Chip Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA), Examining Physician Efforts to Prepare for Medicare Payment Reforms

Advocates	Stance
American Medical Association 	Asked CMS to consolidate performance reporting, broaden APMs, and improve measurement to reflect differences between medical practices. Physicians need room for trial and error to determine what will work for patients.
American College of Physicians 	Applauded MACRA, and stated that the program would combat physician burnout. They also advocate for easier reporting to CMS.
American Academy of Family Physicians 	Launched a multiyear educational program on MACRA for its members. Advocating to delay the performance year to 2018, which will set the threshold for physician reimbursement in 2019.

Physicians Advocates' Main concerns:

- There is neither a **robust nor interoperable Electronic Health Recording system** implemented
- No options for treating patients beyond face-to-face meetings.
- The new regulations need to be flexible, as there are many models of practice.

What's Next:

- CMS will release the final Quality Measure Development Plan on May 2, 2016
- **MIPS goes into effect in 2017.** The performance year will determine how MIPS scores will be implemented and have an effect on payment adjustments, which start in **2019.**

Sources: Meg Bryant, "House Panel Hears Provider Groups' Optimistic Wariness Over MACRA", Healthcare Dive, April 20, 2016; Ryan Ellis, "Medicare Trustees Report Confirms MACRA Saves \$3 Trillion for Taxpayers," Forbes, July 23, 2015; Katie Novaria, "House Committee on Energy and Commerce to Hold Hearing on MACRA Implementation", Capital Thinking, April 18, 2016; Paul Demko, "'Doc fix' Headed to President's Desk After Easily Clearing Senate", Modern Healthcare, April 14, 2015; Shannon Muchmore, "Doctors Argue for more Flexibility on MACRA Changes", Modern Healthcare, April 19, 2016; "MIPS and APMs" CMS.gov, April 20, 2016; "Frequently Asked Questions: MACRA" AAFP, March 2016; Mary Ellen McIntire, "Provider Groups Tell House Panel About How They'll Implement MACRA," April 19, 2016; Susan Morse, "Physicians to Ask for Streamlined Performance Reporting at Tuesday MACRA Hearing," Healthcare Finance, April 19, 2016; "10 FAQs About the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System", Saignite, December 2015. Photos: "American Medical Association," "American Academy of Family Physicians," LinkedIn, April 20, 2016; "American College of Physicians", Trademarkia, April 20, 2016.