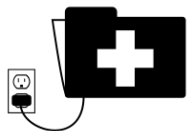


Alex Azar outlines his top four priorities for HHS at a Federation of American Hospitals conference

Azar stated that the administration is “unafraid of disrupting existing arrangements simply because they’re backed by powerful special interests”

Allow patients access to their medical records

“Patients ought to have control of their records in a useful format, period. When they arrive at a new provider, they should have a way of bringing their records, period. That’s interoperability. The what, not the how. Too often, doctors and hospitals have been resistant to giving up control of records, and make patients jump through hoops to get something as basic as an image of a CT scan. The healthcare consumer, not the provider, ought to be in charge of this information.”



Improve pricing transparency

“I believe you ought to have the right to know what a healthcare service will cost — and what it will really cost — before you get that service.”



Better utilize MACRA & the CMS Innovation Center

“We already have a range of tools for using these programs to pay for value, many created by 2015’s MACRA legislation. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, alongside these tools, vests HHS with tremendous power to experiment with new payment models.”



Reduce excess government burden

“There are many other regulations that may be impeding value-based transformation: certain Medicare and Medicaid price reporting rules, for instance, as well as restrictions in some FDA communication policies, may be getting in the way of innovative ways for pharmaceutical companies and payers to work together. In addition, current interpretations of various well-meaning anti-fraud protections may actually be impeding useful coordination and integration of services.”