




# The Physician Perspective on Value-based Care

14<sup>th</sup> National Value-Based Payment and Pay for Performance Summit  
February 27, 2019

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President of the AMA

# AMA Board of Trustees





AMA supports America's physicians in delivering  
value-based care



# Physicians are strong proponents of value-based care

- Physicians support the move to value-based care; AMA a key proponent of MACRA-QPP
- Physicians have great ideas about improving care and lowering costs
- Health system costs are unsustainable; we must reduce the cost of health care in ways that improve outcomes





# Medicare physician payment reform

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## What the AMA is doing:

- Advocating for payment system changes that support improvements in care rather than simply add new administrative burdens.
- Working to simplify administrative requirements in payment models to improve professional satisfaction.
- Expanding payment model options for physicians in all specialties.
- Developing simple, straightforward educational material to help physicians succeed under new payment models.

# Working with CMS to reduce regulatory burdens

- AMA and 169 other health care organizations write CMS supporting proposed reductions in paperwork requirements.
- Raised concerns about proposal to collapse payment rates for office visits
  - As written, change could hurt physicians who care for patients in most dire circumstances or comprehensive care
  - Jeopardize patient access to care
- AMA/physicians committed to working with CMS to resolve issues

## 170 Groups Send Letter on Proposed Changes to Physician Payment Rule

For immediate release: Aug 27, 2018

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CHICAGO — The American Medical Association and about 170 medical groups sent the following letter to Seema Verma, administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, regarding the administration's proposals included in the 2019 Medicare physician payment rule.

The full text of the letter is below:

Dear Administrator Verma:

The undersigned organizations representing physicians and other health professionals welcome and strongly support the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) "Patients Over Paperwork" initiative. We appreciate your outreach to our community and are solidly behind your goal of reducing administrative burdens for physicians and other health care professionals so

# Physician-focused APMs under MACRA

PFPM = Physician-Focused Payment Model

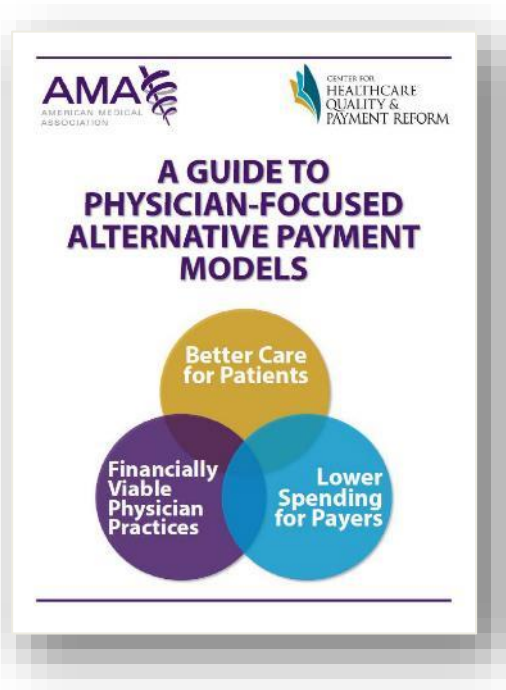
Goal: to encourage new APM options for Medicare clinicians



## Definition:

- Medicare is a payer
- MACRA-eligible clinicians are participants and play core role in implementing APM's payment methodology
- Targets quality and costs of services that clinicians participating in the APM provide, order, or can significantly influence

# AMA promotes physician-focused APMs



- Medicare payment systems are progressing toward APMs
  - See more information about AMA work on physician-focused APMs at: <https://ama-assn.org/practice-management/payment-delivery-models/medicare-alternative-payment-models>
- 11-member **Physician-Focused Payment Model Advisory Committee** created to review stakeholder APM proposals, make recommendations to HHS Secretary
- PTAC has recommended more than two dozen models for testing or implementation, including:
  - Making Accountable Sustainable Oncology Networks [MASON](#), submitted by Innovative Oncology Business Solutions
- CMS recently announced it is working to develop new model tests building on ideas from models recommended by PTAC.



# CMS models qualified as Advanced APMs

## Comprehensive ESRD Care Model

(Subset of 37  
ESCOs qualify)

## Comprehensive Primary Care Plus

(2,816 Round 1 practices  
+ 165 Round 2)

## ACOs:

Tracks 1+, 2, 3  
NextGen, Vermont

(159 ACOs + VT)

## Bundled Payments for Care Improvement Advanced

(starts 10/1/2018)

## Oncology Care Model Track 2

(Subset of 192  
practices qualify)

## Comprehensive Joint Replacement

(Subset of participants  
in 67 MSAs qualify)

# Pros & cons of CMS-developed APMs

## Pros:

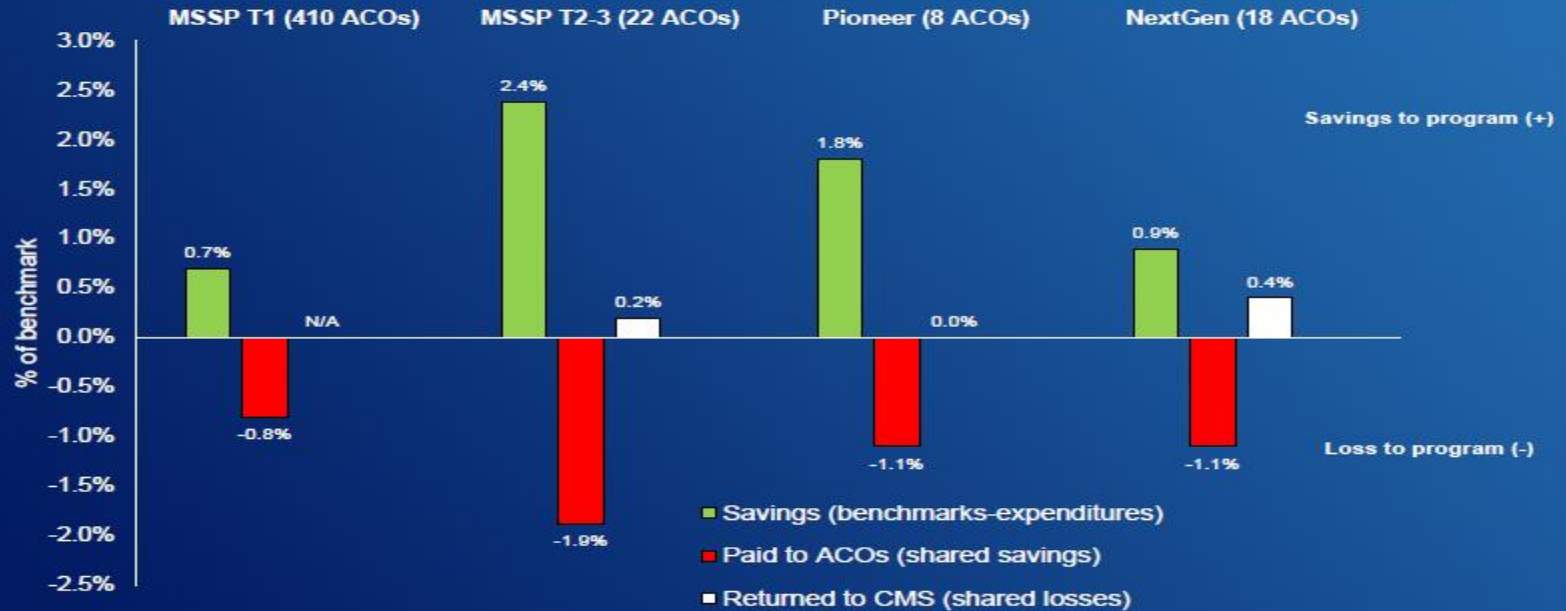
- Extra \$\$ for non-face-to-face services and support staff
- 5% annual bonus to Advanced APMs in 2019-24 with higher update after 2026
- Ease of MIPS participation for MIPS APMs and MIPS exemption for Advanced APMs
- Waivers improve patient access to telehealth and post-acute care
- Opportunities to share savings can lead to better treatment planning

# Pros & cons of CMS-developed APMs

## Cons:

- Financial risk rules force physicians to be accountable for costs outside their control
- Lack of risk adjustment hurts practices with more complex patients, worse functional status, poor support at home
- No incentive for HIT innovation
- Added documentation burdens
- Attribution methods limit patient access to APMs' benefits and keep physicians guessing which of their patients are in APMs
- No recognition of ACO start-up costs and ACO benchmarks hurt efficient practices
- Difficult to get timely data and feedback from CMS
- Years-long waits for shared savings payments

# ACO financial performance by ACO model, 2016



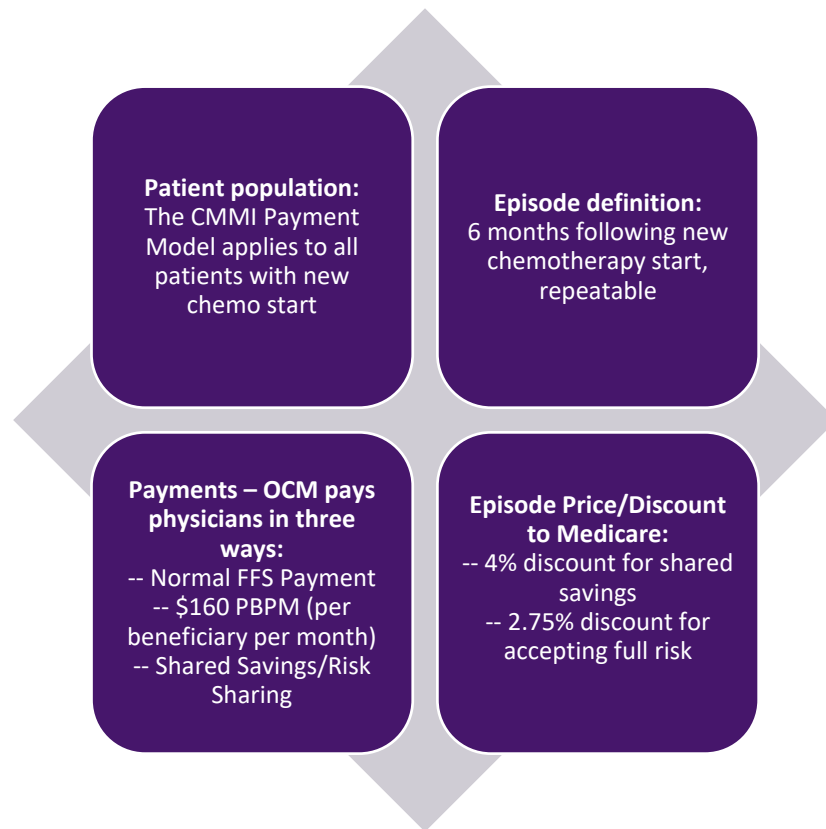
# Analysis of 2017 Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP)

- 472 ACOs in the MSSP spent nearly \$1.1 billion less than “benchmark” spending levels.
- \$799 million given back to 162 of ACOs in shared savings bonuses.
- 16 Track 2 & 3 ACOs paid penalties to CMS totaling \$57 million.
- Net savings for CMS: **\$313.7 million on the MSSP**
- **Is this a lot of savings?**
  - Just **\$36** for each of nearly 9 million ACO beneficiaries
  - Only **.33%** of total ACO spending (\$95 billion)
- Downside risk: ACOs spent **\$254 more** per beneficiary than upside ACOs even after "saving" money for Medicare

Source: Harold D. Miller,  
Center For Healthcare  
Quality & Payment  
Reform



# The Oncology Care Model (OCM)

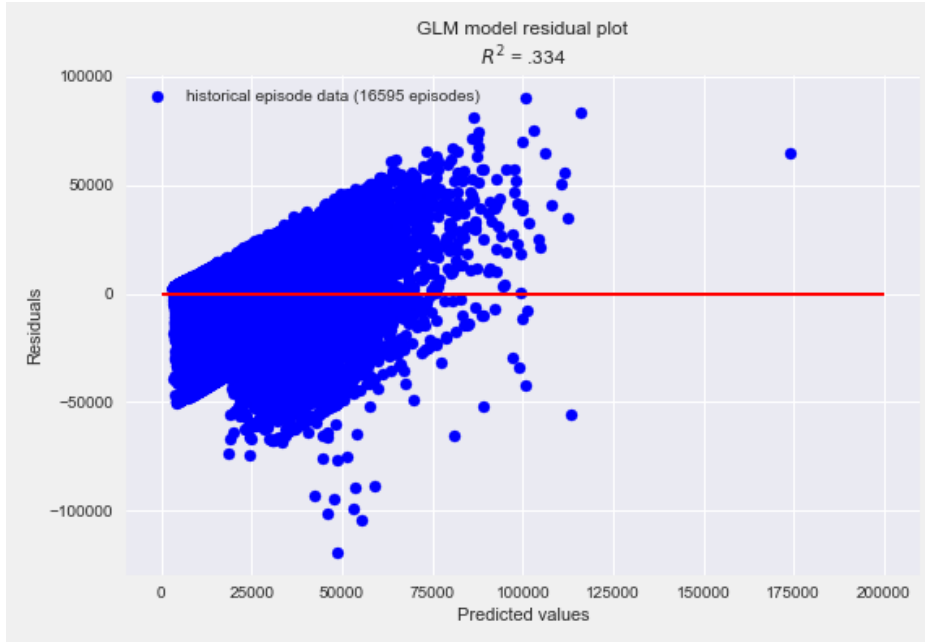


# Pancreatic Cancer

- Below are 2 patients which show huge actual price differences but with identical baseline prices with the following similarities
  - Same Cancer Type , Same HCC group
  - Age, Gender
  - No Surgery, No Radiation
  - No Clinical Trial

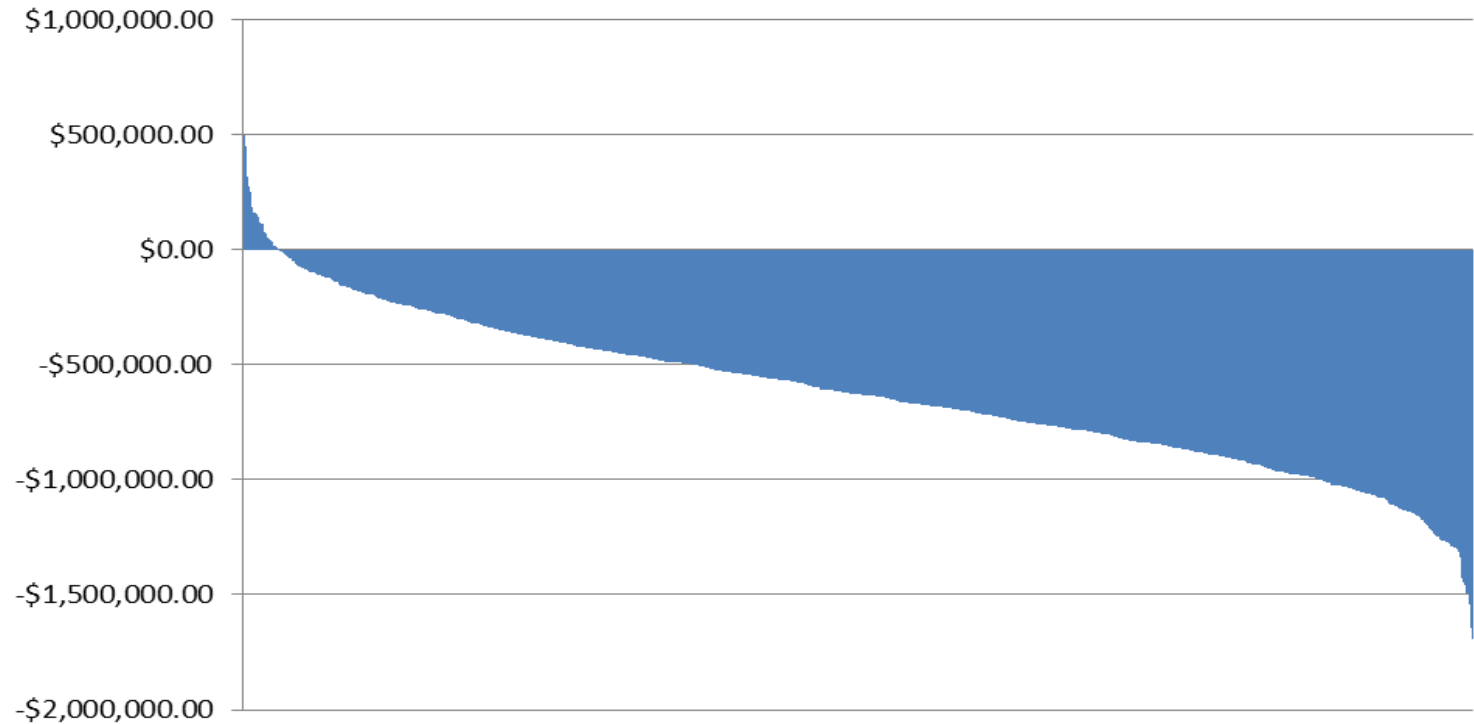
Actual Expense	Baseline Price	Age	Gender	Episode Start	Episode End	Zip
\$9688.51	\$22598.69	80	Male	10-01-2014	03-31-2015	45365
\$49278.57	\$22598.69	82	Male	10-06-2014	04-05-2015	45318

# What's Problematic About the OCM: Target Calculation



- 16K historical episode data (2012-2015) from CMS
- Residual Value : OCM model predicted value - actual values for each historical episode
- Residual Plot: Scatter Plot of Residual vs Predicted Value
- If the points are not randomly dispersed across the red line, than a linear regression model is inappropriate.  $R\text{-squared} = 0.334$
- Time and Clinical data are not included in the model -> Residual plot not randomly dispersed around the red line.

# Simulated PBPs – OCM Full Risk



# MASON

- Transition from volume to value
  - Builds on COME HOME, OCM, FFS, APC, and DRGs
  - Oncology Payment Category (OPC)-Accurate Cost Target modeled on above methodology
  - Tight-knit relationship between Patient ,Care team- (physicians, caregivers and family)
  - Personalized care plan based on multiple factors
  - Uses Cognitive computing Platform (CCP) for best Diagnostic and Therapeutic Pathways (DTP)
  - 2% of OPC is reserved for a quality pool
- Practices bear Risk from the purchase of Reinsurance which covers
    - expenses over the target if the patient is an outlier above a designated amount OR
    - if the practice incurs expenses in aggregate for patients over the designated amount
    - CMS would be repaid from the reinsurance money, if payments exceed OPC
  - Shared Savings for practice
    - If all quality parameters are met AND
    - Actual episode cost less than OPC



# Oncology Payment Category (OPC)

- Calculated using Historical Data
- Based on Clustered data
  - Diagnosis and the relevant Hierarchical Condition Categories (HCCs)
  - Pertinent Clinical criteria, performance status, staging, and patient preferences
  - Socioeconomic factors and geographic barriers
  - Genomics
- Costs include
  - Evaluation and Management (E&M) codes, imaging, lab, radiation and surgery
  - The facility fee for infusion suite
  - Actual infusion costs
  - Medical Home PCOP payments
  - Hospital DRGs
  - Outpatient Hospital APCs
  - Excludes Drugs (reimbursed at invoice price + \$40)

A close-up photograph of a silver stethoscope resting on a dark tablet. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent purple overlay. The text 'AMA/Rand Study' is centered in white serif font.

# AMA/Rand Study

# Effects of Health Care Payment Models on Physician Practice in the United States: Follow-up Study

Mark Friedberg, Peggy Chen & colleagues





# Current study: persistent findings since 2014

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- Strategies used by practices:
  - New capabilities & patient care models
  - Investment in data & analysis
  - Incentives modified within practices
- General openness to VBP as a concept despite challenges in real-world implementation, such as:
  - Data issues (timeliness, accuracy)
  - Operational errors in payment models
  - Conflicting payment models

# Current study: new findings

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- Pace of change has increased
  - Overwhelming to some practices
  - Unexpected APM reversals problematic
    - Some APMs reversed due to leadership changes (rather than model performance)
    - Affects practices' ability to invest, morale, willingness to participate, financial position





# Current study: new findings

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- Complexity of models has increased
  - Understandability a more prominent issue
  - One pathway to success: investing in ability to understand each model
    - Better understanding → new strategies to earn bonuses & avoid penalties
  - MACRA QPP a good example of complexity



# Current study: new findings

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- Practices expressed more risk aversion
  - Especially when burned by prior experience
  - Avoiding downside risk, in general
    - Offloading downside risk to partners
    - Shifting risk back to payers, in some categories (e.g., drug spending)
    - Willing to forego some upside bonus potential to reduce downside risk



# Recommendations

- Simplify APMs to help practices focus on improving patient care
- Practices benefit from a stable, predictable, moderately-paced pathway for APMs
- Practices need new capabilities and timely data to succeed in APMs
- Consider offering upside-only APMs or help practices manage downside risk
- Design APMs to encourage clinical changes that individual physicians see as valuable



The background of the slide features a faint, stylized graphic. It includes a bar chart with several vertical bars of varying heights and a line graph with a red line that trends upwards from left to right. The entire graphic is rendered in a light blue/purple hue against a dark blue background.

# What physicians (still) need to succeed in value-based care

## Keys to success:

- **Physician leadership** in identifying appropriate and feasible opportunities for savings;
- **Physician leadership** in designing and implementing better approaches to care;
- Physicians must have **financial resources, regulatory flexibility, and timely and actionable data** they need to address patients' health care needs through value-based care.





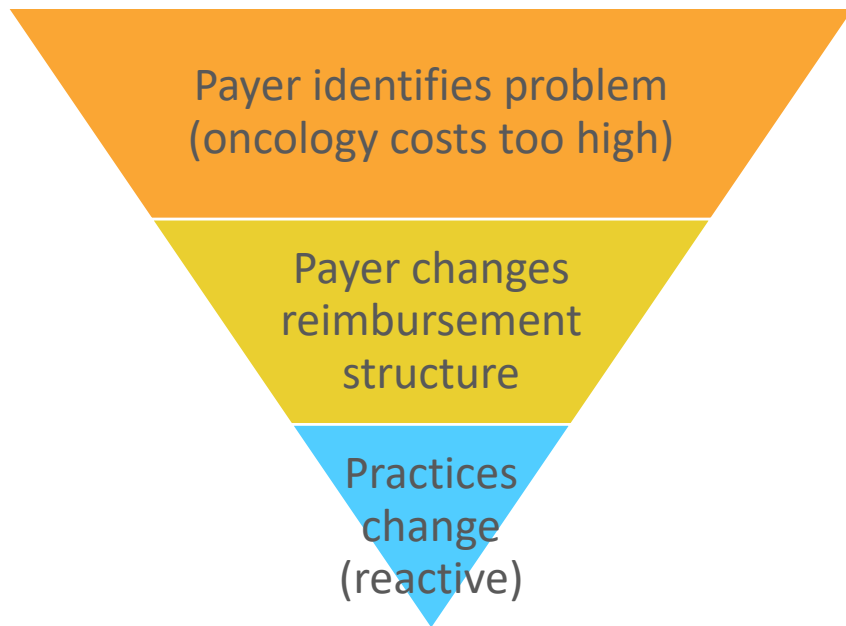
## Key elements missing from CMS models

- CJR – joint replacement model only provides for participation by hospitals; no opportunity for physician leadership
- Medicare ACOs do not allow additional payments for physicians to: deliver care management; communicate with patients after hours; provide other services not funded under the Physician Fee Schedule

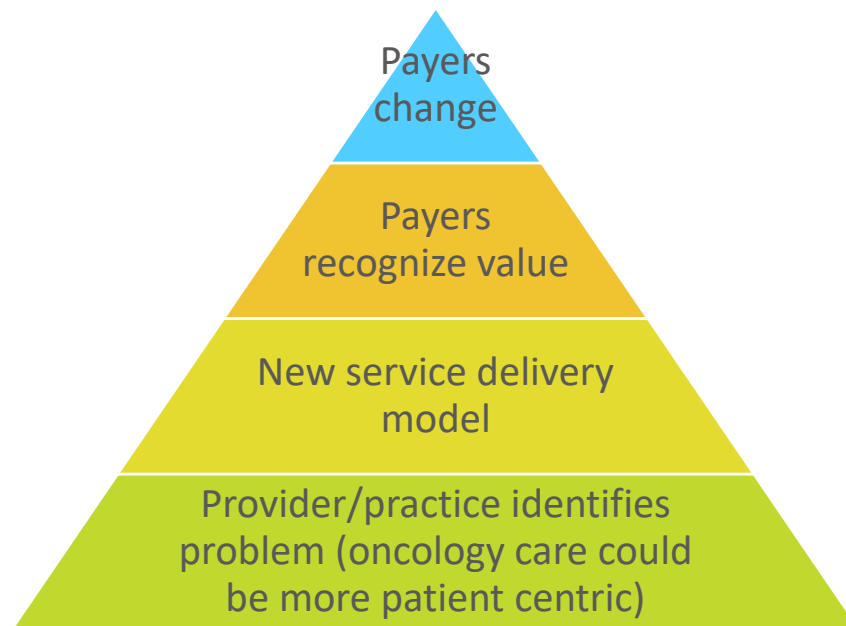


# Reform should be driven from the bottom-up, not top-down

## Payer-Driven



## Provider-Driven



# Payment models should be simple, but not simplistic

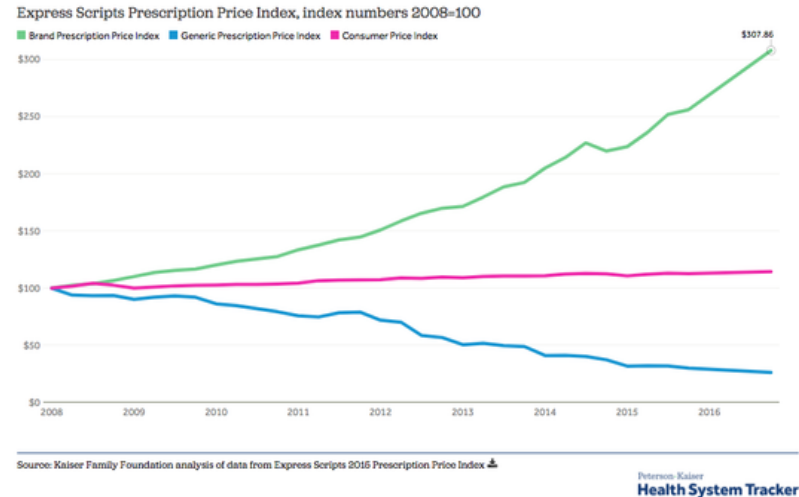
- One-size-fits-all models are more likely to harm patients without achieving savings than models that tailor services to the unique needs of patients.
- Problematic approaches: CPC+ and Oncology Care Model do not consider complexities in patient's functional status or living arrangements
- Better approach: consider disease severity, comorbidities, functional status and availability of home caregiver



# Physicians willing to be accountable for costs we control, not for those we do not

- Most CMS APMs place physicians at significant financial risk for costs they cannot control, including spending on patient conditions they are not treating, and drug costs.
- CMS should build on Comprehensive Primary Care Plus (CPC+) approach which holds physicians accountable for the frequency of emergency visits and hospital admissions, but not the cost of care.

Generic drug prices have declined while branded drug prices have nearly doubled in price





## Physicians need better data to deliver value-based care

- Extremely difficult to get timely and actionable data from payers
- No support for sharing or connecting data in a meaningful way
- Physicians need access to Medicare claims data and to Health Information Exchanges

# Health IT challenges

- Many health IT products, including EHRs, are developed and certified to meet ONC and CMS requirements
- These requirements have been predominant driver of product design for years—creating “one-size-fits-all” EHRs
- Certified EHR Technology (CEHRT) now widely viewed as tool for documenting, reporting and billing instead of improving clinical care, coordination, and patient engagement
- To be successful, APM participants need health IT that responds to and supports physician, patient, and care team interactions

# AMA's partners in innovation



# Connecting the health care innovation ecosystem



Bringing physicians and technologists/entrepreneurs together to develop health care solutions that work.

PIN currently has **4,400+ users**.



# Payment models should remove barriers to innovative care

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- AMA encourages CMS to build on promising approaches:
- Medicare's Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) has encouraged development of innovative new approaches to prevention (First Mile Care), but current DPP payments do not support virtual approaches to care delivery, or cover costs for challenging patient populations



# Need to try multiple approaches

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- We do not know which payment and delivery reform approaches will be successful.
- Physician groups and specialty societies need support to develop multiple approaches to identify those that will be most successful.
- E.g., approach used in Medicare Part D – private plans developed a wide array of different plans and patients had lots of choices.





Thank you!

**Barbara L. McAneny, MD**  
**President**

