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America's Physician Groups Leads Effort to Strengthen and Improve Medicare Advantage

[America's Physician Groups](#) and 340 medical groups and independent practice associations sent a [letter](#) today to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Seema Verma in response to proposals in the Medicare Advantage (MA) Advance Notice and Call Letter.

In the letter, the physician organizations praised CMS for its intent to begin collecting information next month about advanced alternative payment model (APM) contracting for MA plans, saying, "This is a critical step in advancing the policy objective of creating more APMs and promoting the movement to risk-based contracting."

The letter also urges CMS to immediately implement the MA APM demonstration project it announced late last year, noting the benefits of risk contracting for the 44 million Americans enrolled in Medicare.

"We know that creating greater opportunities and incentives for risk contracting in MA will advance the Medicare delivery system for all seniors," the organizations stated.

In addition, the physician organizations call on CMS to undertake a serious effort to better understand the coding differences between traditional Medicare and MA. "An increase in coding intensity is an expected consequence of population health payment and delivery models that empower primary care physicians to identify and manage chronic conditions," the letter said.

The letter concludes, "Risk-based physician organizations in MA are at the leading edge of delivery system reform. We look forward to a final rate announcement that creates a strong MA program for the future."

The final announcement is expected on April 2 of this year.

Click [here](#) for a copy of the letter.

About America's Physician Groups

America's Physician Groups is the nation's leading professional association for accountable physician groups, composed of approximately 300 medical groups and independent practice associations (IPAs) across 44 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. America's Physician Groups' members operate under a capitated, coordinated care model that is the essence of the nation's health reform movement from volume to value. Our [Annual Conference 2018](#) will be held April 19-21, 2018 in San Diego. Learn more at www.apg.org.

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