



For Immediate Release
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Contact:
David L. Allen
dallen@apg.org
(202) 770-1901

**Statement from Don Crane, President and CEO
America's Physician Groups**

APG Responds to Release of CMS Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule

"Yesterday, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released its Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) final rule. While we continue to analyze the rule, at first blush there are some notable changes that will impact physician groups and the patients and communities they serve.

"One of the most important changes in the final rule is around evaluation and management (E/M) codes. CMS acknowledges the thousands of comments received in response to their proposal to update E/M codes by finalizing the reduced documentation requirements, while delaying the proposed payments changes until 2021. Thus for 2019 and 2020, practices will continue using the current coding and payment structure for E/M office and outpatient visits

"We are pleased that CMS will continue in dialogue with stakeholders to further refine the regulations as they become effective in 2021. APG will continue to remain involved in the process and will take advantage of opportunities to submit recommendations.

"CMS also takes aim at reducing clinician burden by removing several duplicative notation and documentation requirements. And for 2019 and beyond, CMS is also eliminating the requirement to document the medical necessity of a home visit in lieu of an office visit and reducing documentation requirements for established patients when relevant information is already contained in the medical record.

"We applaud the hard work CMS put into finalizing the MPFS rule and will continue to work with them to advance high-quality, value-based care models that are the future of our healthcare system."

For a deeper dive on changes to the MPFS, you can read the CMS fact sheet [here](#) and the full text of the final rule [here](#).

About America's Physician Groups

[America's Physician Groups](#) is the nation's leading professional association for accountable physician groups, composed of over 300 medical groups and independent practice associations (IPAs) across 43 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 2019 will be held April 11-13, 2019 in San Diego. Learn more at www.apg.org.

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