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MARCH 2, 2020

Welcome to America's Physician Groups' "Healthcare on the Hill," where you can get the latest on healthcare happenings in our nation's capital--and with a special focus on the value-based care movement. Here's what you will find in this edition:

- ***Happening Now: ACA Update***
- ***Quality Counts: CMS Administrator Verma Talks Meaningful Measurement 2.0 at Quality Conference***
- ***Interoperability: Slow Ride! Take it Easy!***
- ***Coronavirus Update***
- ***You Down with ET3? Yeah, You Know Me!***
- ***Take a Dip: Join APG's Deep Dive Webinar on the MA Rate Notice***
- ***Register Today! APG Annual Conference 2020 in San Diego!***

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***Valinda Rutledge
Senior Vice President of Federal Affairs
America's Physician Groups***

Supreme Court

The Supreme Court has announced that they will hear the case overturning the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that was brought by state officials in “red” states. This is the third time that the ACA has been brought to the Supreme Court for rulings. It is expected that the Supreme Court will hear arguments in the fall of 2020, but a verdict will probably not be rendered until mid-2021. This is in keeping with typical verdicts of the Court.

As we have indicated in the past, the ACA goes beyond just Medicaid expansion and impacts many other aspects of the healthcare for Americans such as pre-existing protections, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) models like Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs), dependent coverage, out-of-pocket caps and Medicare Advantage (MA).

Administration

Quality Counts:

During her speech at the agency’s 2020 Quality Conference in Baltimore, MD, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Seema Verma highlighted the 2017 launch of her Meaningful Measurements initiative, designed to help streamline quality metrics and ease the reporting burden on physicians. Verma pointed to the work being done to establish the MIPS Value Pathway (MVP), which gives physicians the flexibility to select quality measures that are meaningful to them and relevant to the patients they serve.

Verma also noted the next generation in measuring quality—Meaningful Measurement 2.0. In her remarks, Verma envisioned “a future in which quality is only measured electronically” and said, “Imagine a world in which clinicians don’t have to lift a finger – where quality measures can be seamlessly transmitted from their EHRs. That’s the vision of Meaningful Measures 2.0.”

Meaningful Measures 2.0 will leverage technology based upon the Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) standards which allows quality information to be submitted into a centralized system where calculations can be made. This will eliminate need to submit data in multiple places.

Let’s Take a Minute:

That same day during a Senate Appropriations health subcommittee hearing just 40 miles down the road, Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) urged Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar not to move too quickly in implementing the Administration's two proposed interoperability rules—rules that would, among other things, allow patients to access their data on smart devices. While Alexander supports both rules, he and other senators have voiced concerns about maintaining patient privacy.

Coronavirus News:

As the coronavirus continues to spread globally, President Trump announced that Vice President Pence will lead the nation's response. Additionally, after initially saying that the government cannot set prices, HHS Secretary Azar said during a House Ways & Means Committee hearing that a coronavirus vaccine will be affordable to all Americans.

HHS continues to monitor the risk of drug shortage due to decreased manufacturing in China. Pharmaceutical companies are required to inform the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of any pending supply chain disruptions however medical devices companies do not have the same requirements which could complicate timely notifications.

Please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [website](#) for detailed information about the coronavirus.

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What's New with ET3:

CMS selected 205 participants in the Emergency Triage, Treat, and Transport (ET3) [model](#). The ET3 model is an alternative to how ambulances are traditionally used—to pick up a patient and transport him/her to the ED. Under ET3, ambulance teams, after assessing Medicare beneficiaries, can transport them to a more appropriate setting such as a primary care office to receive care.

Coming Up:

Make sure you [register today](#) for APG's next **Deep Dive Webinar** on [Part I](#) and [Part II](#) of the **Medicare Advantage (MA) Rate Notice** as well as the [proposed rule](#). The webinar is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 10 at 2:00 pm ET**.

Joining **Valinda Rutledge, APG's Senior Vice President of Federal Affairs** will be **Cathy Murphy-Barron, a Principal from Milliman**.

APG Annual Conference 2020

[Register today](#) for America's Physician Groups Annual Conference 2020 The Value Movement Grows Up: What's Next? May 28-30 in San Diego. With great speakers covering the topics that matter to you, our Annual Conference is the place to be for anyone engaged in value-based care. APG members can save money by registering before our early-bird deadline. See you in San Diego!



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