



March 22, 2021

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.

As our nation--and the world--continues to face the many challenges presented by COVID-19, we are working to ensure you have the very latest information on the virus and our rapidly changing healthcare landscape.

*Think someone else may enjoy "Healthcare on the Hill?" **Forward this email and have them click [here](#) to be added to our subscription list.** And remember, you can always visit our [website](#) for more news and resources.*

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

APG Congratulates Xavier Becerra on Confirmation as HHS Secretary

Today, APG issued a statement **congratulating Xavier Becerra for his confirmation as the next Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)**. APG President and CEO Don Crane commented on new Secretary Becerra's timely appointment saying "Mr. Becerra takes the reins of HHS at a critical time as our nation pushes past the COVID-19 pandemic and as millions continue to suffer from disparities in care."

Mr. Crane also reiterated APG's commitment to working with HHS moving forward, stating ". APG is committed to working with HHS to protect and improve access to affordable, high-quality healthcare for all Americans, both now and post-pandemic. We look forward to working with Mr. Becerra and HHS on ways to accelerate the movement toward value-based care models and away from our unaffordable and dysfunctional fee-for-service healthcare system to

reach this goal.”

The House Sub Committee on Health Holds Hearing on the ACA

With the 11th anniversary of the ACA next week, the Subcommittee on Health of the Committee on Energy and Commerce will hold a legislative hearing entitled, "[Building on the ACA: Legislation to Expand Health Coverage and Lower Costs](#)." This hearing comes on the heels of President Biden's American Rescue Plan and will review numerous bills that will expand health care coverage to millions of Americans, lower monthly insurance premium, and lower health care cost.

APG Applauds Bipartisan Connected MOM Act

This weekend, APG issued a press release applauding Senators Bill Cassidy, MD, (R-LA), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Tom Carper (D-DE), Todd Young (R-IN), and Jacky Rosen (D-NV) for introducing the bipartisan **Connected Maternal Online Monitoring Service (MOM) Act**. This legislation would improve healthcare for pregnant and postpartum women by requiring the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to provide insurance coverage recommendations for remote monitoring devices.

“The Connected MOM platform is another example of how Ochsner is continuously innovating to improve the care and outcomes for the patients that we serve,” said **Phil Oravetz, MD, Chief Population Health Officer, Ochsner Health**. “The use of remote monitoring and digital content in the delivery of both prenatal and postpartum services provide improved access and convenience for our patients, contributes to improved outcomes, and has the opportunity to be scalable throughout our service area and beyond. We enthusiastically endorse the expansion of this program via legislative action.”

“APG has been a strong supporter of increasing access to remote patient care via telehealth services, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said **Don Crane, APG President and CEO**. “Allowing remote monitoring for potential pregnancy complications will not only help prevent overall deaths and illnesses, it will also help address the wide health disparities gap in maternal and infant mortality.”

CORRECTION: CMS Released RFA Deadline for the Primary Care First Model

Last week we reported that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that they would begin accepting applications for the [Primary Care First Model for Cohort 2](#). **The corrected deadline for practice applications is April 30, 2021 and the deadline for payer applications is May 28, 2021.**

[Launch of APG Direct Contracting Coalition](#)

CMMI recently announced that the **Global/Professional Direct Contracting** will start April 1st and the participation agreements and other associated documents were distributed to

participants.

APG has been working hard to help your organizations prepare for the launch of this model, but we know that with the recent delay by CMMI of the GEO model and the whirlwind of the past year has likely made many of you unsure on what to do next. Have no fear, we are here to help!

APG will be sponsoring and supporting the launch of a special coalition for current and potential Direct Contracting participants so that we can exchange information, share best practices, and collaborate on advocacy opportunities that will strengthen your experience under Direct Contracting. We want to help ensure success for all participants!

You do not need to be an APG member to join.

If you belong to a healthcare **organization interested in joining our coalition and qualify as a potential or current Direct Contracting participant**, please submit a name and contact information to **Shelley Robinette** (srobinette@apg.org).

We look forward to creating an opportunity for everyone to have the best possible experience in Direct Contracting!