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May 25, 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.

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

CMS Announces Decision Not Extend the Next Generation ACO Model, Offers Direct Contracting

Late Friday, CMS announced that it would not be extending or expanding the Next Generation ACO (NGACO) Model and would instead be offering eligible Next Generation ACOs the opportunity to participate in the Global and Professional Direct Contracting (GPDC) Model test. CMS cited the GPDC Model as a similar high-risk financial

arrangement and alternative payment mechanism that can utilize Next Generation ACOs' operational capacity and processes to do value-based health care transformation work that they have built over the course of the model.

Next Generation ACOs will have the opportunity to request to join the GPDC Model starting in PY2022 as a Standard Direct Contracting Entity (DCE), which are composed of organizations that generally have experience serving Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries, including Medicare-only and also dually eligible beneficiaries. These organizations may have previously participated in section 1115A shared savings models (e.g., Next Generation ACO Model and Pioneer ACO Model) and/or the Shared Savings Program.

The application process will not be automatic and interested Next Generation ACOs must meet all GPDC Model eligibility requirements for Standard DCEs and submit requested materials demonstrating their eligibility to participate in the Model to CMS by June 14, 2021. The agency said that additional details will be forthcoming and also noted that it may deny GPDC Model participation to current Next Generation ACOs on the basis of a program integrity screening or the failure to meet GPDC Model eligibility requirements.

This change comes after an extensive advocacy push from APG and our new APG Direct Contracting Coalition communicating with CMS about the importance of the GPDC model and the need to follow through on its pathway toward value-based care. We will continue to monitor all developments on both the NGACO and GPDC Models and keep you informed as new information arises.

APG's Next Direct Contracting Coalition Meeting

APG will host its next **Direct Contracting Coalition** meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, June 1, at 4 pm ET**. We will discuss the implications of CMMI's announcement that it would be offering eligible Next Generation ACOs the opportunity to participate in the Global and Professional Direct Contracting (GPDC) Model for a January 1, 2022 start date. We will also review the positive feedback the Coalition has received regarding our advocacy efforts on the Hill, and provide an update on the April 1 Direct Contracting participants. Register [here](#).

If you want to be a part of this Coalition and you belong to a provider organization, please submit a name and contact information to Shelley Robinette (srobinette@apg.org). The Coalition is for current and potential Direct Contracting participants and is a perfect opportunity to exchange information, share best practices, and collaborate on advocacy efforts that will strengthen your experience under Direct Contracting.

Senate Confirms Chiquita Brooks-LaSure as the New Administrator of CMS

Today, in a vote of 55-44, the Senate confirmed the nomination of Chiquita Brooks-LaSure to be the new Administrator of CMS. APG issued a [press release](#) submitted a [letter](#) congratulating her on her new role and that we look forward to working with her and the agency on protecting and improving access to affordable, high quality health care, and expanding value-based healthcare and moving away from fee-for-service.

President Expected to Release His Proposed 2022 Budget

This Friday, President Biden is expected to release his full 2022 budget proposal, covering the fiscal year beginning in October. The proposal will include his request for mandatory spending, tax reform, job creation, and the investment in our infrastructure. The proposal comes in spite of the fact that the administration still has not nominated a director to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) after previous nominee Neera Tanden withdrew following a lack of support in the Senate. Shalanda Young has been serving as acting OMB director since she was confirmed as deputy director on March 23.

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This message was sent to srobinette@apg.org from:

Valinda Rutledge | America's Physician Groups | 1501 M Street, NW | Washington, DC 20005

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