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*Welcome to "Washington Update," the weekly e-newsletter on the latest health care happenings in the nation's capital that affect APG's members.*

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**APG Launches New Coalitions, Anticipates Guidance from CMS Leaders; Hears From Outgoing NIAID Director Anthony Fauci at "Transitions" Colloquium**

Leaders from CMS and its Innovation center will address APG's advocacy-focused ACO and Medicaid managed care coalitions at APG's annual fall conference on Monday, October 31. Liz Fowler, JD, MPH, PhD, director of the Innovation Center, will address a joint session of APG's ACO REACH Coalition and its new ACO Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) coalition, and is expected to describe elements of the agency's "strategic refresh update" due out next week. Another topic on the agenda is likely to be proposed changes to the

MSSP program that could make it even more attractive to new participants, as well as APG member organizations debating between shifting to MSSP or staying in ACO REACH.

The inaugural session of APG's new Medicaid coalition, a on Oct. 31, will feature guidance from CMS' Hannah Katch, Senior Advisor to the Administrator, who will provide an overview of the Biden administration's Medicaid priorities, including extending more of the Medicare-focused value-based delivery and payment models to Medicaid beneficiaries and safety net providers.

Plenary sessions at the conference beginning on Tuesday, November 1, will assess the outlook for the 2023 elections and the possible impact on health care issues – ranging from the outlook for the looming post-election actions by Congress, to an assessment of the state of support for value-based care. A panel of former CMS and CMMI officials, including Amy Bassano, former Deputy Director for CMMI; Adam Boehler and Patrick Conway, former heads of the Innovation Center; and Gail Wilensky, former head of the then-named Health Care Financing Administration, will offer insights about past successes and failures of the government's push for value along with their prescriptions for success in the future.

On Tuesday, Nov. 1, the outgoing director of the National Agency for Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Antony Fauci, MD, will offer "A Career's Worth of Reflections" on his five decades leading federal efforts to combat infectious diseases, including COVID-19. In a fireside chat with APG CEO Susan Dentzer, he will also discuss his concerns about declining public understanding of and support for science and the implications for public health countermeasures in future pandemics.

Interested? It's not too late to register for the Colloquium [here](#).

### **CMS Seeks Input on Establishing First National Directory of Health Care Providers**

From patients looking for doctors who speak their native language, to insurers struggling to maintain accurate provider networks, it has long been apparent that many health care stakeholders could benefit from creation of a national provider directory. Now, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) has issued a Request for Information (RFI) asking for public input on the proposed creation of a "National Directory of Healthcare Providers and Services" (NDH) -- a centralized database designed to be a vast improvement over the many disconnected directories that exist today.

Although much has been invested in these currently available directories, this fragmented non-system that exists is fraught with problems. Physicians, for example, spend nearly \$3 billion a year updating their information in multiple directories. By contrast, CMS says, the proposed centralized "data hub" could be populated with up-to-date data provided by providers and payers directly, through a relatively easy-to-use Application Programming Interface (API). CMS says the directory could also make data available in a format that would "ease health data exchange [among] providers and improve public health reporting, a need highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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