

Report of the Medical Policy Council
MedChi House of Delegates
April 30, 2017

The State continues to work on a progression plan for the Medicare waiver to be submitted to CMS for approval. Implementation of the plan would be in January of 2019. The progression plan is designed to focus on total cost of care(TCOC) for all Medicare beneficiaries. Under the current CMS agreement Maryland must keep all-payor hospital growth rate in line with the gross state product and demonstrate Medicare savings of 330 million over 5 years. The current data indicates that Maryland is meeting those goals but the growth of Medicare outpatient costs has exceeded the national growth rate. As a result CMS has asked that the progression plan address, TCOC, which would include both inpatient and outpatient costs relative to Medicare beneficiaries. MedChi and HSCRC are working together to develop physician alignment strategies since provider engagement will be critical when attempting to achieve TCOC goals. In that regard, two care redesign amendments have been approved by CMMI, one that addresses inpatient episodes of care and the other addresses complex care in the outpatient setting. Both amendments allow for gainsharing if certain cost and quality targets are met. In addition, the state has submitted a plan to CMS that would allow those physicians involved in the care redesign programs to become MACRA eligible under an Advanced Alternative Payment Model(AAPM). The care redesign amendments, however, are hospital initiated and do not allow for physician innovation without a hospital partner. MedChi will continue to meet with HSCRC to design a progression plan that allows for physician alignment strategies that allow for provider autonomy and maintain fair reimbursement for the additional work necessary to address TCOC.

Dr Ramani Peruvemba
Dr David Safferman
MedChi Medical Policy Council