

Our Priority:

TOTAL COST OF CARE



On January 1, 2014, the State of Maryland and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) replaced Maryland's 36-year-old Medicare waiver with a new initiative aimed at modernizing Maryland's unique all-payer rate-setting system for hospital services. This initiative was extended in 2019 and became known as the **Total Cost of Care Model (TCOC)**. Beginning in 2024, the State and CMS will be undertaking a review of the TCOC for further extension.

MedChi has prioritized these negotiations to ensure that patient care is safe and accessible and that physicians are protected and positioned for success under the Total Cost of Care model.

MedChi Priority	Background	MedChi Action
Support the Maryland Primary Care Program (MDPCP)	This voluntary program, open to qualifying primary care practices, provides funding and supports the delivery of advanced primary care.	Advocate for practices and care transformation organizations to be able to enroll in the MDPCP throughout the year rather than being constrained to designated enrollment periods.
Support the Episode Quality Improvement Program (EQIP)	This voluntary program provides incentive payments to physicians who improve the quality of care and reduce the cost of care for Medicare patients.	Advocate for increased access to the EQIP program for all physician specialties and increased support for small practices to ensure that patients have access to high quality, affordable care.
Advocate for TCOC Program Improvements	TCOC utilizes various metrics to ensure that quality of care increases and patient safety is prioritized as efficiencies decrease costs.	Advocate for enhanced patient protections in the development of quality and safety metrics and the creation of a process for collection and consideration of physician complaints and concerns about their patients' care.
Advocate for Improved Oversight	TCOC provides global budgeting for Maryland's hospitals.	Advocate for a review process to ensure hospitals are providing all required services and investing in necessary and innovative technology to provide those services.

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