

March 30, 2020

The Honorable Howard Haft, MD
Director, Maryland Primary Care Program
Maryland Department of Health
301 West Preston Street Baltimore MD 21201

Re: Primary Care Bonus Payments

Dear Dr. Haft,

On behalf of our physicians, MedChi wants to thank you for the leadership and assistance you have provided during the COVID-19 pandemic. As you know and understand, this pandemic has placed unprecedented demands on all physicians. For primary care physicians, recent stay at home orders have made it more challenging for physicians to maintain viable practices, despite the increased authorizations in telehealth.

Consequently, we appreciate the fact that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) will no longer be collecting eCQM reporting for PY 2019 to calculate Performance Based Incentive Payment (PBIP) reconciliation in light of the difficulty faced by primary care practices during this unprecedented time. That action is helpful, but MedChi would strongly urge that the clawback provision be eliminated from the PBIP program for PY 2019. The elimination of the clawback will enable practices to release much-needed funds to maintain employees working during this crisis.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information or for any action needed on the part of MedChi for this request. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gene M. Ransom, III
Chief Executive Officer