

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

Our Priority:

PAYMENT MODELS



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). Governor Wes Moore joined CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure in signing Maryland's state agreement to participate in the federal States Advancing All-Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development (AHEAD) Model on November 1, 2024, with implementation set to begin on January 1, 2026.

MedChi has prioritized efforts to ensure that patient care is safe and accessible and that physicians are protected and positioned for success under both the Total Cost of Care and AHEAD Models.

MedChi Priority	Background	MedChi Action
Maintain and 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.	MedChi advocates for practices and care transformation organizations, as part of the AHEAD Model, to receive fair payments and 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.	MedChi advocates 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.	MedChi advocates 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 that will continue in the AHEAD Model.
Advocate for Improved Oversight	TCOC and the future AHEAD Model provide global budgeting for Maryland's hospitals.	MedChi advocates for a review process to ensure hospitals are providing all required services and investing in necessary and innovative technology to provide those services.

Learn more at www.medchi.org/YourAdvocate