

From: DiBlasio, Carla
Sent: 17 Mar 2016 02:59:12 +0000
To: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL);Howell, Cherie A. (CMS/OL)
Cc: Druckman, Jennifer (CMS/OL)
Subject: FW: Follow-up to call with Chairman Price and Patrick Conway
Attachments: Final signed CCJR letter.pdf, Shoulder Coding Letter to CMS 2-25-16.pdf

Hi Maria and Cherie,

I received an auto reply message from Al Chadwick. Chairman Price is serious about setting a phone call with Patrick Conway about CJR before it's implemented on April 1st. We would greatly appreciate your assistance in setting up a call next week.

Thanks so much!
Carla

Carla DiBlasio, Esq.
Policy Advisor
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501



From: DiBlasio, Carla
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 3:41 PM
To: 'Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)'
Cc: Dugan, Meghan
Subject: RE: Follow-up to call with Chairman Price and Patrick Conway

Hey Al,

I hope you're doing well. I had the pleasure of speaking with Jen Druckman last week. She instructed me to follow-up with you to setup a call with Patrick Conway and Congressman Price so they may discuss CJR. Is there any availability for a call next week? I've copied our scheduler, Meghan Dugan.

Thanks, as always!
Carla

Carla DiBlasio, Esq.
Policy Advisor
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501



From: DiBlasio, Carla
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 12:54 PM
To: 'Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)'
Subject: RE: Follow-up to call with Chairman Price and Patrick Conway

Thanks Al!

I apologize I've been stuck in meetings all day. I've attached the letter my boss recently sent to CMS on the shoulder issue. I've also attached the letter my boss sent to CMS on CJR back in September. I realize that CMS responded and CJR was since finalized. However, many of his concerns remain the same.

I was hoping to learn more about Patrick Conway's ideas for reform in the Meaningful Use program for 2016. This was follow-up to the phone with Patrick Conway last week. I believe I emailed you and Jennifer Druckman about it last week.

I'll call you this afternoon in between meetings. Let me know if you prefer a specific time, and I'll do my best to accommodate. My schedule has been in flux today. Thanks so much for your patience.

Best,
Carla

Carla DiBlasio, Esq.
Policy Advisor
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501



From: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) [<mailto:Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 10:51 AM
To: DiBlasio, Carla
Subject: RE: Follow-up to call with Chairman Price and Patrick Conway

Hello Carla –

Can you give me a call this afternoon to discuss your orthopedic issues/CJR/shoulder coding issues call request? Thanks.

Al Chadwick
Office of Legislation/Congressional Affairs Group
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
200 Independence Ave, SW
Room 351G
Washington, DC 20201

202-690-5519 (Phone)
202-690-8168 (Fax)
alpheus.chadwick@cms.hhs.gov

From: DiBlasio, Carla [<mailto:Carla.DiBlasio@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2016 3:32 PM
To: Druckman, Jennifer (CMS/OL)
Cc: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
Subject: Follow-up to call with Chairman Price and Patrick Conway

Hey Jennifer,

Thanks so much for arranging the call with Patrick Conway and Congressman Price. I know Dr. Price thought it was a helpful conversation. Dr. Price would like me to follow-up with you in another phone call to discuss options for Congress to create greater flexibility in the program in 2016 that would also be helpful/workable for CMS. Do you have time for a call early next week?

Additionally, Dr. Price would like me to arrange another call for him to discuss orthopedic issues with CMS, including CJR and a shoulder coding issue. I informed Al last night of Dr. Price's intention of bringing it up with Patrick Conway this morning, but Al led me to believe that we would need to setup a separate call for that.. and that would be possible. We greatly appreciate the helpful dialogue!

Thanks again!
Carla

Carla DiBlasio, Esq.
Policy Advisor
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501



Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 21, 2015

Mr. Andrew Slavitt
Acting Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Patrick Conway, M.D., MSc
Deputy Administrator, Innovation & Quality
Chief Medical Officer
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Mr. Slavitt and Dr. Conway:

CMS recently proposed the Comprehensive Care for Joint Replacement Model (CCJR), a new episode-based payment model for lower extremity joint replacement (LEJR) that would apply to 75 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's) for five years. The CCJR proposed payment model represents a significant change for beneficiaries and providers because it constitutes the first mandatory Medicare episode payment model promulgated under CMS' CMMI authority. Other CMS proposed models, including the Bundled Payments for Care Improvement (BPCI) on which the CCJR model was based, have all been voluntary. Given this substantial change for Medicare beneficiaries and providers, we raise certain questions and ask that you delay the implementation of the CCJR payment model for at least one year.

HHS has a goal of tying 85 percent of all traditional Medicare payments to quality or value by 2016 and 90 percent by 2018 through programs such as Hospital Value Based Purchasing. To be sure, increasing value by means of improved outcomes and reduced cost is a goal that we all share. As a result, the questions below relate not to the goal itself but, rather, how the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) seeks to achieve it.

1. We recognize the uniquely positive influence that patient choice has in achieving quality, responsiveness, effectiveness, and efficiency of healthcare services. Systems that foster patient choice have proven to work, whereas those that supplant patient choice with centralized control have often led to shortages, rationing, and poor outcomes. If it ultimately places post-acute care (PAC) funding with hospital control, the CCJR model would likely create a strong incentive for hospitals to acquire post-acute care facilities and orthopedic surgery practices, or preclude independent practices from performing surgeries at the hospital. There is a considerable body of evidence suggesting that healthcare market consolidation can have deleterious effects on patients, providers, and taxpayers.¹ It also appears likely that hospitals would be compelled to

¹ Between 1998 and 2012, there were 1,113 mergers and acquisitions involving a total of 2,277 hospitals. Mergers have nearly doubled in recent years. There were 95 hospital mergers in 2014, 98 in 2013, and 95 in 2012. Compare that with

restrict the provision of additional services by Medicare beneficiaries' physicians in order to mitigate the risk that hospitals will face under the CCJR program. What safeguards are incorporated into the proposed CCJR model, and are under consideration in any possible future iteration, that would guard against hospital-driven vertical integration or other forms of market consolidation that could lead to higher costs? Consequently, what protections are incorporated into the proposed CCJR model to maintain a patient's freedom to choose their provider, course of treatment, and medical services?

2. We are concerned that patients requiring higher-cost complex surgeries (such as hip fractures and ankle replacement procedures) or who suffer from multiple chronic conditions may find it more difficult to find hospitals willing to serve them, since the greater risk of complications or the higher level of post-acute care associated with their condition would be logically viewed by hospitals as increasing their risk under the proposed CCJR model. Additionally, since the CCJR model excludes "non-elective" joint replacement surgeries (many of which involve complex hip fractures) from its quality framework, but otherwise maintains such cases for "target price" and episode expenditure purposes, this could potentially place too much emphasis on the cost of these vulnerable patients' post-acute care without adequate consideration of their outcomes and the quality of care they receive. What safeguards are incorporated into the proposed CCJR model to ensure that patients with complex surgeries or chronic conditions would have access to the full spectrum of hospitals, physicians, and post-acute care providers under CCJR that they are able to access today?
3. Small and rural hospitals are a crucial resource for numerous communities. The risk placed on hospitals by CCJR, as well as the oversight and administrative responsibilities that hospitals would have to bear for 90 days post-discharge may be so burdensome that small and rural hospitals may have little option other than to be subsumed into larger systems or refrain from offering lower extremity joint replacement surgeries. What safeguards are incorporated into the proposed CCJR program to address the specific needs and circumstances of small and rural hospitals?

50 mergers in 2005, and 54 in 2006. American Hospital Association, *Trendwatch Chartbook 2012: Trends Affecting Hospitals and Health Systems*, <http://www.aha.org/research/reports/tw/chartbook/index.shtml>. See also: Glenn Melnick and Emmett Keeler, "The Effects of Multi-Hospital Systems on Hospital Prices," *Journal of Health Economics*, Vol. 26 (2007), pp. 400–413. See also: Martin Gaynor, "What Do We Know About Competition and Quality in Health Care Markets?" National Bureau of Economic Research *Working Paper* No. 12301, June 2006, <http://www.nber.org/papers/w12301.pdf>. In 2005, only a quarter of physician medical practices were owned by hospitals. By 2008, the majority of physician practices were hospital owned. Gardiner Harris, "More Doctors Giving Up Private Practices," *The New York Times*, March 25, 2010. (See also House Committee on Ways and Means, Hearing on Health Care Industry Consolidation, September 9, 2011 and House Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight, and Regulations, "Health Care Realignment and Regulation: The Demise of Small and Solo Medical Practices?" July 19, 2012.) In 2014, the share of doctors who have an ownership stake in their practice was estimated to be down to about one-third, and only 2 percent of newly licensed physicians were seeking a solo practice. David Rotham, "Hospital Networks Need a Hippocratic Oath," *The New York Times*, March 6, 2014. See also: Xu T, Wu AW, Makary MA. The Potential Hazards of Hospital Consolidation: Implications for Quality, Access, and Price. *JAMA*. Published online August 13, 2015.


4. This CCJR model requires sophisticated coordination of care that will demand additional providers within the post-acute setting to collaborate with hospitals to define and monitor a patient's care plan.² The CCJR proposed rule indicates that forcing post-acute care providers to invest in Electronic Health Records (EHRs) will accomplish the needed coordination, as hospitals that rely on post-acute care providers without EHRs may not be eligible for reconciliation payments in the future. How would this mandatory approach within the CCJR model prevent forced relationships between providers based on the meaningful use of EHRs, rather than allowing these choices to be based on who provides the best quality of care, keeps patients the safest, and does the best job of coordinating with the hospital and other providers?

5. The total amount of gainsharing payments for a calendar year paid to an individual physician, nonphysician practitioner, or physician group practice who is a CCJR collaborator cannot exceed a cap equal to 50 percent of the total Medicare approved amounts under the Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) for services furnished to the participant hospital's CCJR beneficiaries during a CCJR episode by that physician, non-physician practitioner, or members of the physician group practice. Why are you limiting gainsharing payments to providers who will be responsible for much of the care-redesign required in this model? Additionally, why are post-acute care providers not meaningfully included in the CCJR bundle to ensure quality care is provided over the entire continuum of care?

In light of the January 1, 2016 effective date proposed by the Agency, we request your response to these questions no later than October 1, 2015. The CMS proposal represents a significant change to our healthcare delivery system which could have a negative impact on patient choice, access and quality. Given the fact that the proposed rule will not be finalized until almost the year's end, it will give physicians, hospitals and post-acute providers little or no time to prepare for this abrupt shift in payment for these high-volume procedures and the changes in care delivery that they will require. As a result, we ask that you seriously reconsider the CCJR payment model. At a minimum, we ask that you delay the implementation of the CCJR payment model for at least one year.

Yours truly,

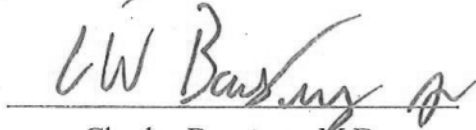
² CMS assumes that hospitals will enter sharing arrangements with post-acute care providers. See pg. 41297 of the CMS proposed CCJR rule.



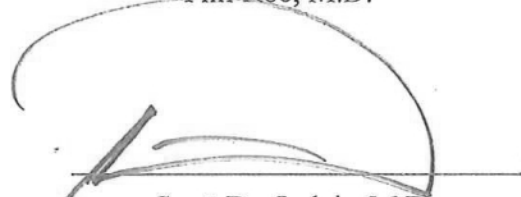
Tom Price, M.D.



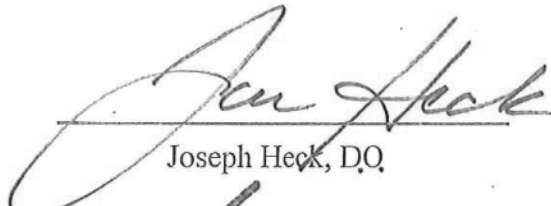
Phil Roe, M.D.



Charles Boustany, M.D.



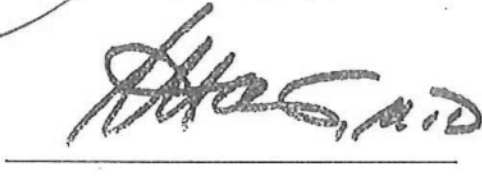
Scott DesJarlais, M.D.




Joseph Heck, D.O.




Paul Gosar, DDS



Andy Harris, M.D.



Brian Babin, DDS



Brad Wenstrup, DPM



Rubén Hinojosa



Devin Nunes



Todd Young



Jim Renacci



Jason Smith

Vern Buchanan

Vern Buchanan

Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter

Earl "Buddy" Carter

Walter B. Jones

Walter Jones

Austin Scott

Austin Scott

Mark Meadows

Mark Meadows

Pete Olson

Pete Olson

Martina Blackburn

Martina Blackburn

Lynn Westmoreland

Lynn Westmoreland

Pete Sessions

Pete Sessions

Rick Allen

Rick Allen

Kurt Schrader

Kurt Schrader

Bill Flores

Bill Flores

Ann Wagner

Ann Wagner

Barry Loudermilk

Barry Loudermilk



Steve Chabot



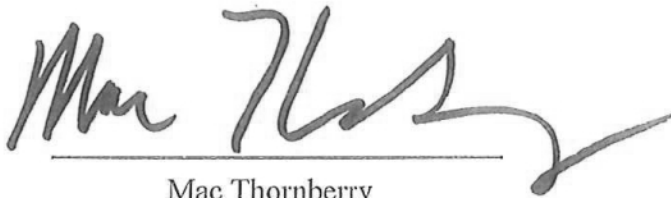
John Duncan



Louie Gohmert



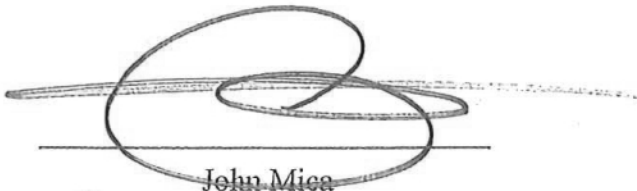
Gary Palmer



Mac Thornberry



Jackie Walorski



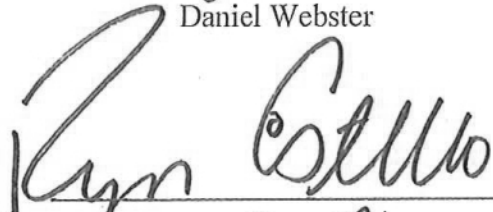
John Mica



Daniel Webster



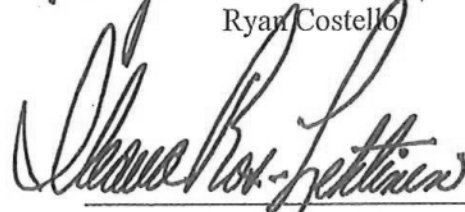
Mike Coffman



Ryan Costello



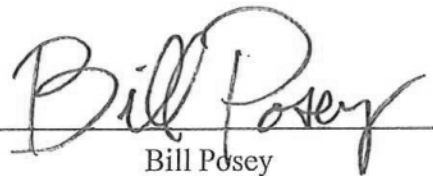
Tom Rice



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen



Dina Titus

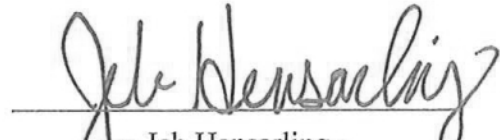



Bill Posey

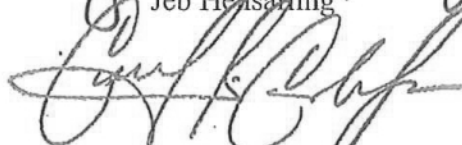

Kevin Brady



Gus Bilirakis


Mike Kelly


Jeb Hensarling


John Fleming, MD

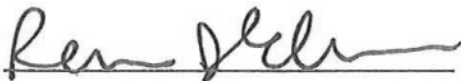

Carlos Curbelo

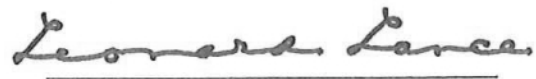

Steve Cohen


Bob Goodlatte


Bruce Westerman



Pat Tiberi


Renee Ellmers


Leonard Lance



Jody Hice



Lou Barletta


Larry Bucshon, M.D.


Lynn Jenkins


David Scott


Terri Sewell


Dan Benishek, M.D.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 25, 2016

Andy Slavitt
Acting Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Acting Administrator Slavitt,

CMS relies on Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) software to issue and deny payments. Since 2013, edits made to CCI have bundled several codes together for shoulder surgery have resulted in denied payment when these procedures are performed together. Specifically, these edits have denied CPT code 29823, Arthroscopic Shoulder Debridement, extensive, with several other arthroscopic shoulder procedures such as CPT code 29827, Arthroscopic Rotator Cuff Repair, or CPT code 29824, Arthroscopic distal claviclectomy. These are distinctly separate procedures.

This issue is of extreme importance to the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS), the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine (AOSSM), the Arthroscopy Association of North America (AANA), and the American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons (ASES). The societies have written multiple letters to CMS and the third party that owns and implements the CCI software (called the National Correct Coding Initiative-NCCI) and held multiple conference calls and face-to-face meetings with CMS and NCCI, including a meeting at CMS headquarters in May 2015 with Marc Hartstein, Director of the Hospital and Ambulatory Policy Group, and other CMS officials. After the May 2015 meeting, several documents were submitted to CMS indicating the CCI edits the societies felt were erroneous along with materials describing anatomically why these edits were incorrect. CMS stated they would take the request under review to change their edits and the policy manual for January 1, 2016. These edits and policy manual were released recently and did not result in any correction to the policy or edits in question.

Earlier this year, the AAOS submitted a request to meet with you, personally, about this issue. However, we recently received news that the request was denied, and they were offered an opportunity to meet with the Deputy Director of the Center for Medicare. The AAOS has already discussed this issue with other members of the CMS and it is important that this issue be fully understood. Therefore, we are asking you to reconsider their request and would like to encourage you, personally, to orchestrate a meeting to discuss the shoulder coding issue.

Sincerely,



Tom Price, M.D.



John Barrasso, M.D.

From: DiBlasio, Carla
To: [Martino, Maria \(CMS/OL\)](#)
Cc: [Chadwick, Alpheus K. \(CMS/OL\)](#)
Subject: Re: FOLLOW-UP to Call with Dr. Price re: final MACRA rule
Date: Wednesday, October 19, 2016 4:35:52 PM

Just parked. I should be able to hop on the call in two minutes.

Thanks!

Carla DiBlasio
Senior Policy Advisor/Legislative Counsel
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
[100 Cannon House Office Building](#)
[Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501](#)

On Oct 19, 2016, at 4:31 PM, Martino, Maria (CMS/OL) <Maria.Martino@cms.hhs.gov> wrote:

No problem. If you want to try to talk tomorrow, we can do that too.

From: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2016 4:30 PM
To: DiBlasio, Carla <Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL) <Maria.Martino@cms.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: FOLLOW-UP to Call with Dr. Price re: final MACRA rule

Hello Carla – I think we will be able to wait for you, but please keep me posted...thx.

-Al

From: DiBlasio, Carla [<mailto:Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2016 4:27 PM
To: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) <Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov>
Cc: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL) <Maria.Martino@cms.hhs.gov>
Subject: Re: FOLLOW-UP to Call with Dr. Price re: final MACRA rule

Al,

My sincere apologies but I'm stuck in traffic and my notes are sitting back in the office. I am running 5-10 min late.

Carla DiBlasio
Senior Policy Advisor/Legislative Counsel
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)

100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501

On Oct 18, 2016, at 4:23 PM, Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
<Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov> wrote:

I've arranged a call-in number for tomorrow, Wednesday (10/19) at 4:30pm EST. To access the call, please dial (b)(6) and when prompted, Meeting Number: (b)(6) Thx.

-Al

From: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 4:12 PM
To: DiBlasio, Carla <Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL) <Maria.Martino@cms.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: FOLLOW-UP to Call with Dr. Price re: final MACRA rule

Yes, 4:30pm should work on our end...thx.

From: DiBlasio, Carla [<mailto:Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 4:10 PM
To: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) <Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov>
Cc: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL) <Maria.Martino@cms.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: FOLLOW-UP to Call with Dr. Price re: final MACRA rule

No problem, Al.

Do you mind if we chat at 4:30 pm tomorrow? I don't think I'll be able to make 4 pm.

Thanks!
Carla

From: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
[\[mailto:Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov\]](mailto:Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov)
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 3:09 PM
To: DiBlasio, Carla
Cc: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL)
Subject: FOLLOW-UP to Call with Dr. Price re: final MACRA rule

Hello Carla – are you available on Wednesday at 4pm to talk to Maria and I as a follow-up to Monday's call between Dr. Price and Patrick Conway?

-Al

From: Howell, Cherie A. (CMS/OL)

Sent: Friday, October 14, 2016 2:55 PM
To: Dugan, Meghan <Meghan.Dugan@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Puchalla (Creitz), Charlene <Charlene.Puchalla@mail.house.gov>; Price, Tom (DiBlasio, Carla) (Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov) <Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov>; Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) <Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov>; Martino, Maria (CMS/OL) <Maria.Martino@cms.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Call with Dr. Price re: final MACRA rule

Hello Meghan,
The call is scheduled for Monday, October 17, 2016 at 9:00 AM
Here is the conference call-in information.

Access Information

1. Please call the following number:
WebEx: (b)(6)
2. Follow the instructions you hear on the phone.
Your WebEx Meeting Number: (b)(6)

From: DiBlasio, Carla [mailto:Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2016 10:33 AM
To: Howell, Cherie A. (CMS/OL) <Cherie.Howell@cms.hhs.gov>
Cc: Dugan, Meghan <Meghan.Dugan@mail.house.gov>; Puchalla (Creitz), Charlene <Charlene.Puchalla@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Call with Dr. Price re: final MACRA rule

Hey Cherie!

Thanks again for your call this AM. Dr. Price would like to speak with Patrick Conway on Monday afternoon regarding the final MACRA rule. I am looping in the Congressman's scheduling team to set something up. I believe you and Al have worked with our DC scheduler, Meghan Dugan, in the past.

Thanks so much!
Carla

Carla DiBlasio
Senior Policy Advisor/Legislative Counsel
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501

From: DiBlasio, Carla
To: [Chadwick, Alpheus K. \(CMS/OL\)](#)
Cc: [Martino, Maria \(CMS/OL\)](#)
Subject: Re: FOLLOW-UP to Call with Dr. Price re: final MACRA rule
Date: Wednesday, October 19, 2016 4:27:25 PM

Al,

My sincere apologies but I'm stuck in traffic and my notes are sitting back in the office. I am running 5-10 min late.

Carla DiBlasio
Senior Policy Advisor/Legislative Counsel
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
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To: DiBlasio, Carla <Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov>
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Cc: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL) <Maria.Martino@cms.hhs.gov>
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Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 3:09 PM
To: DiBlasio, Carla
Cc: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL)
Subject: FOLLOW-UP to Call with Dr. Price re: final MACRA rule

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Sent: Friday, October 14, 2016 2:55 PM
To: Dugan, Meghan <Meghan.Dugan@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Puchalla (Creitz), Charlene <Charlene.Puchalla@mail.house.gov>; Price, Tom (DiBlasio, Carla) (Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov) <Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov>; Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) <Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov>; Martino, Maria (CMS/OL) <Maria.Martino@cms.hhs.gov>
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To: Howell, Cherie A. (CMS/OL) <Cherie.Howell@cms.hhs.gov>
Cc: Dugan, Meghan <Meghan.Dugan@mail.house.gov>; Puchalla (Creitz), Charlene <Charlene.Puchalla@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Call with Dr. Price re: final MACRA rule

Hey Cherie!

Thanks again for your call this AM. Dr. Price would like to speak with Patrick Conway on Monday afternoon regarding the final MACRA rule. I am looping in the Congressman’s scheduling team to set something up. I believe you and Al have worked with our DC scheduler, Meghan Dugan, in the past.

Thanks so much!

Carla

Carla DiBlasio
Senior Policy Advisor/Legislative Counsel
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501

From: DiBlasio, Carla
To: [Chadwick, Alpheus K. \(CMS/OL\)](mailto:Chadwick.Alpheus.K.(CMS/OL)@cms.hhs.gov)
Cc: [Martino, Maria \(CMS/OL\)](mailto:Martino.Maria.(CMS/OL)@cms.hhs.gov)
Subject: RE: FOLLOW-UP to Call with Dr. Price re: final MACRA rule
Date: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 4:44:39 PM

Excellent, thanks!

From: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) [<mailto:Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 4:24 PM
To: DiBlasio, Carla
Cc: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL)
Subject: RE: FOLLOW-UP to Call with Dr. Price re: final MACRA rule

I've arranged a call-in number for tomorrow, Wednesday (10/19) at 4:30pm EST. To access the call, please dial (b)(6), and when prompted, Meeting Number: (b)(6)
Thx.

-Al

From: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 4:12 PM
To: DiBlasio, Carla <Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL) <Maria.Martino@cms.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: FOLLOW-UP to Call with Dr. Price re: final MACRA rule

Yes, 4:30pm should work on our end...thx.

From: DiBlasio, Carla [<mailto:Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 4:10 PM
To: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) <Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov>
Cc: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL) <Maria.Martino@cms.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: FOLLOW-UP to Call with Dr. Price re: final MACRA rule

No problem, Al.

Do you mind if we chat at 4:30 pm tomorrow? I don't think I'll be able to make 4 pm.

Thanks!
Carla

From: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) [<mailto:Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 3:09 PM
To: DiBlasio, Carla
Cc: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL)
Subject: FOLLOW-UP to Call with Dr. Price re: final MACRA rule

Hello Carla – are you available on Wednesday at 4pm to talk to Maria and I as a follow-up to

Monday's call between Dr. Price and Patrick Conway?

-AI

From: Howell, Cherie A. (CMS/OL)
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2016 2:55 PM
To: Dugan, Meghan <[Meghan.Dugan@mail.house.gov](mailto: Meghan.Dugan@mail.house.gov)>
Cc: Puchalla (Creitz), Charlene <[Charlene.Puchalla@mail.house.gov](mailto: Charlene.Puchalla@mail.house.gov)>; Price, Tom (DiBlasio, Carla) <[Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov](mailto: Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov)> <[Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov](mailto: Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov)>; Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) <[Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov](mailto: Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov)>; Martino, Maria (CMS/OL) <[Maria.Martino@cms.hhs.gov](mailto: Maria.Martino@cms.hhs.gov)>
Subject: RE: Call with Dr. Price re: final MACRA rule

Hello Meghan,

The call is scheduled for Monday, October 17, 2016 at 9:00 AM

Here is the conference call-in information.

Access Information

1. Please call the following number:
WebEx: (b)(6)
2. Follow the instructions you hear on the phone.

Your WebEx Meeting Number: (b)(6)

From: DiBlasio, Carla [<mailto:Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2016 10:33 AM
To: Howell, Cherie A. (CMS/OL) <Cherie.Howell@cms.hhs.gov>
Cc: Dugan, Meghan <[Meghan.Dugan@mail.house.gov](mailto: Meghan.Dugan@mail.house.gov)>; Puchalla (Creitz), Charlene <[Charlene.Puchalla@mail.house.gov](mailto: Charlene.Puchalla@mail.house.gov)>
Subject: Call with Dr. Price re: final MACRA rule

Hey Cherie!

Thanks again for your call this AM. Dr. Price would like to speak with Patrick Conway on Monday afternoon regarding the final MACRA rule. I am looping in the Congressman's scheduling team to set something up. I believe you and AI have worked with our DC scheduler, Meghan Dugan, in the past.

Thanks so much!

Carla

Carla DiBlasio
Senior Policy Advisor/Legislative Counsel
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501

From: DiBlasio, Carla
To: [Chadwick, Alpheus K. \(CMS/OL\)](mailto:Chadwick.Alpheus.K.(CMS/OL)@cms.hhs.gov)
Cc: [Martino, Maria \(CMS/OL\)](mailto:Martino.Maria.(CMS/OL)@cms.hhs.gov)
Subject: RE: FOLLOW-UP to Call with Dr. Price re: final MACRA rule
Date: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 4:10:29 PM

No problem, Al.

Do you mind if we chat at 4:30 pm tomorrow? I don't think I'll be able to make 4 pm.

Thanks!

Carla

From: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) [<mailto:Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 3:09 PM
To: DiBlasio, Carla
Cc: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL)
Subject: FOLLOW-UP to Call with Dr. Price re: final MACRA rule

Hello Carla – are you available on Wednesday at 4pm to talk to Maria and I as a follow-up to Monday's call between Dr. Price and Patrick Conway?

-Al

From: Howell, Cherie A. (CMS/OL)
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2016 2:55 PM
To: Dugan, Meghan <Meghan.Dugan@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Puchalla (Creitz), Charlene <Charlene.Puchalla@mail.house.gov>; Price, Tom (DiBlasio, Carla) <Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov> <Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov>; Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) <Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov>; Martino, Maria (CMS/OL) <Maria.Martino@cms.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Call with Dr. Price re: final MACRA rule

Hello Meghan,

The call is scheduled for Monday, October 17, 2016 at 9:00 AM

Here is the conference call-in information.

Access Information

1. Please call the following number:

WebEx: (b)(6)

2. Follow the instructions you hear on the phone.

Your WebEx Meeting Number: (b)(6)

From: DiBlasio, Carla [<mailto:Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2016 10:33 AM
To: Howell, Cherie A. (CMS/OL) <Cherie.Howell@cms.hhs.gov>
Cc: Dugan, Meghan <Meghan.Dugan@mail.house.gov>; Puchalla (Creitz), Charlene <Charlene.Puchalla@mail.house.gov>

Subject: Call with Dr. Price re: final MACRA rule

Hey Cherie!

Thanks again for your call this AM. Dr. Price would like to speak with Patrick Conway on Monday afternoon regarding the final MACRA rule. I am looping in the Congressman's scheduling team to set something up. I believe you and AI have worked with our DC scheduler, Meghan Dugan, in the past.

Thanks so much!

Carla

Carla DiBlasio
Senior Policy Advisor/Legislative Counsel
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501

From: DiBlasio, Carla
To: [Chadwick, Alpheus K. \(CMS/OL\)](#)
Cc: [Martino, Maria \(CMS/OL\)](#)
Subject: RE: FOLLOW-UP to Call with Dr. Price re: final MACRA rule
Date: Thursday, October 20, 2016 8:19:52 PM

No problem!

While CMS finds that compliance costs generally hover around \$1,200, the [GAO in a report](#) released last week highlighted that these costs are considerably higher. On p. 12 of the GAO report: While the study did not identify specifically how much of the cost of quality measurement is attributable to misalignment, the authors reported that physician practices spent 785.2 hours per physician per year on overall quality measurement efforts, *with an average annual cost of \$40,069 per physician.*

Thanks!!

From: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) [<mailto:Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2016 1:58 PM
To: DiBlasio, Carla
Cc: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL)
Subject: RE: FOLLOW-UP to Call with Dr. Price re: final MACRA rule

Hello Carla – thx for taking time to speak with Maria and I yesterday about follow-up issues. During the conversation, you mentioned a GAO Report. Can you please send the link to that report? It would be very helpful for us to have the same context that you spoke of...thx.

-Al

From: DiBlasio, Carla [<mailto:Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2016 4:35 PM
To: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL) <Maria.Martino@cms.hhs.gov>
Cc: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) <Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov>
Subject: Re: FOLLOW-UP to Call with Dr. Price re: final MACRA rule

Just parked. I should be able to hop on the call in two minutes.

Thanks!

Carla DiBlasio
Senior Policy Advisor/Legislative Counsel
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
[100 Cannon House Office Building](#)
[Washington, DC 20515](#) | [202.225.4501](#)

On Oct 19, 2016, at 4:31 PM, Martino, Maria (CMS/OL) <Maria.Martino@cms.hhs.gov> wrote:

No problem. If you want to try to talk tomorrow, we can do that too.

From: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2016 4:30 PM
To: DiBlasio, Carla <Carla.DiBlasio@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL) <Maria.Martino@cms.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: FOLLOW-UP to Call with Dr. Price re: final MACRA rule

Hello Carla – I think we will be able to wait for you, but please keep me posted...thx.

-Al

From: DiBlasio, Carla [<mailto:Carla.DiBlasio@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2016 4:27 PM
To: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) <Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov>
Cc: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL) <Maria.Martino@cms.hhs.gov>
Subject: Re: FOLLOW-UP to Call with Dr. Price re: final MACRA rule

Al,

My sincere apologies but I'm stuck in traffic and my notes are sitting back in the office. I am running 5-10 min late.

Carla DiBlasio
Senior Policy Advisor/Legislative Counsel
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
[100 Cannon House Office Building](#)
[Washington, DC 20515](#) | [202.225.4501](#)

On Oct 18, 2016, at 4:23 PM, Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) <Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov> wrote:

I've arranged a call-in number for tomorrow, Wednesday (10/19) at 4:30pm EST. To access the call, please dial (b)(6) and when prompted, Meeting Number: (b)(6) Thx.

-Al

From: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 4:12 PM
To: DiBlasio, Carla <Carla.DiBlasio@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL) <Maria.Martino@cms.hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: FOLLOW-UP to Call with Dr. Price re: final MACRA rule

Yes, 4:30pm should work on our end...thx.

From: DiBlasio, Carla [<mailto:Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 4:10 PM
To: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) <Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov>
Cc: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL) <Maria.Martino@cms.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: FOLLOW-UP to Call with Dr. Price re: final MACRA rule

No problem, Al.

Do you mind if we chat at 4:30 pm tomorrow? I don't think I'll be able to make 4 pm.

Thanks!
Carla

From: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
[\[mailto:Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov\]](mailto:Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov)
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 3:09 PM
To: DiBlasio, Carla
Cc: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL)
Subject: FOLLOW-UP to Call with Dr. Price re: final MACRA rule

Hello Carla – are you available on Wednesday at 4pm to talk to Maria and I as a follow-up to Monday's call between Dr. Price and Patrick Conway?

-Al

From: Howell, Cherie A. (CMS/OL)
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2016 2:55 PM
To: Dugan, Meghan <Meghan.Dugan@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Puchalla (Creitz), Charlene <Charlene.Puchalla@mail.house.gov>; Price, Tom (DiBlasio, Carla) (Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov) <Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov>; Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) <Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov>; Martino, Maria (CMS/OL) <Maria.Martino@cms.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Call with Dr. Price re: final MACRA rule

Hello Meghan,
The call is scheduled for Monday, October 17, 2016 at 9:00 AM
Here is the conference call-in information.

Access Information

1. Please call the following number:
WebEx: (b)(6)

2. Follow the instructions you hear on the phone.

Your WebEx Meeting Number (b)(6)

From: DiBlasio, Carla [<mailto:Carla.DiBlasio@mail.house.gov>]

Sent: Friday, October 14, 2016 10:33 AM

To: Howell, Cherie A. (CMS/OL) <Cherie.Howell@cms.hhs.gov>

Cc: Dugan, Meghan <Meghan.Dugan@mail.house.gov>; Puchalla (Creitz), Charlene <Charlene.Puchalla@mail.house.gov>

Subject: Call with Dr. Price re: final MACRA rule

Hey Cherie!

Thanks again for your call this AM. Dr. Price would like to speak with Patrick Conway on Monday afternoon regarding the final MACRA rule. I am looping in the Congressman's scheduling team to set something up. I believe you and Al have worked with our DC scheduler, Meghan Dugan, in the past.

Thanks so much!

Carla

Carla DiBlasio
Senior Policy Advisor/Legislative Counsel
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501

From: DiBlasio, Carla
To: [Chadwick, Alpheus K. \(CMS/OL\)](#)
Cc: [Dugan, Meghan](#); [OReilly, Megan \(CMS/OL\)](#); [Martino, Maria \(CMS/OL\)](#)
Subject: Re: Rep. Price (GA) Call with Dr. Patrick Conway
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 6:23:11 PM

Wonderful, thanks!

Carla DiBlasio, Esq.
Policy Advisor
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
[100 Cannon House Office Building](#)
[Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501](#)

On Feb 25, 2016, at 6:12 PM, Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
<Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov> wrote:

Hello Carla & Meghan – as a follow-up to our conversation, we have scheduled a call on Friday, Feb 26th at 9:15am EST between Rep. Price and Dr. Patrick Conway to discuss our hardship application. To access the call, please dial (b)(6) (b)(6) and when prompted Meeting Number: (b)(6) (b)(6). Thanks for all your help on short notice. BTW, I will be out of the office on Friday, so if you have any concerns, please contact Maria or Megan at 202-690-8820.

-Al

From: DiBlasio, Carla
To: [Chadwick, Alpheus K. \(CMS/OL\)](#)
Cc: [Martino, Maria \(CMS/OL\)](#)
Subject: RE: TIME SENSITIVE re: (b)(6)
Date: Friday, February 5, 2016 8:18:27 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Thanks Al,

I really appreciate your response this afternoon.

Have a wonderful weekend,
Carla

Carla DiBlasio, Esq.
Policy Advisor
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501



From: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) [mailto:Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2016 4:23 PM
To: DiBlasio, Carla
Cc: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL)
Subject: RE: TIME SENSITIVE re: (b)(6)

Hello Carla – I want to address w.

- 1) Did the facility know of the deficiencies;
A: The facility was notified on January 26, 2016 regarding identification of ongoing immediate jeopardy.
- 2) Did the facility have a year to correct the deficiencies;
A: The survey was completed January 15, 2016 The recertification survey identified non-compliance dating back to January 31, 2015.
- 3) What were the actual deficiencies at issue in January 2015 that were ongoing and not corrected?
A: The immediate jeopardy citations were related to staff treatment of residents, neglect & abuse, pressure ulcers and accident hazards.

Furthermore, a revisit was conducted on February 3, 2016 and the immediate jeopardy was not abated, it is ongoing. As a result, the termination will go into effect.

-Al

From: DiBlasio, Carla [mailto:Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov]

Sent: Friday, February 5, 2016 1:11 PM

To: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)

Subject: TIME SENSITIVE re: Brookwood Nursing Center, Inc

Importance: High

Alpheus,

I hope this email finds you well. Congressman Price has been contacted about the pending removal of Medicare/Medicaid patients at (b)(6) scheduled to take place **this Sunday, February 7th**. Attached is the signed Privacy Release Waiver from our constituent (b)(6)

In the letter from CMS dated January 26, 2016, it states "On January 15, 2016, a recertification/extended survey was completed at (b)(6) The immediate jeopardy was identified to exist on **January 31, 2015**, and is considered ongoing."

- Can you confirm the original certification survey was completed in **January 2015** and 1) the facility knew of the deficiencies; 2) the facility has had a year to correct the deficiencies; and 3) what were the actual deficiencies at issue in January 2015?

Nonetheless, we request that you provide (b)(6) a 10-day extension to fulfill all obligations and demonstrate total compliance within 10 days. The removal of Brookwood Medicare/Medicaid residents on February 7th is a serious disruption of care. Additionally, relocating patients will lead to inaccessibility for the families of (b)(6) residents due to the current lack of beds in nearby facilities.

Thank you for your assistance. Any information you can provide today would be greatly appreciated.

Carla DiBlasio

Carla DiBlasio, Esq.

Policy Advisor

Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)

100 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501



From: DiBlasio, Carla
Sent: 8 Dec 2016 17:30:17 +0000
To: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL);Bill, Aaron
Cc: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL);Howell, Cherie A. (CMS/OL)
Subject: RE: 2017 Quality Payment Program Self-Nomination Guide for Registries

Thanks for the heads up, Al!

I hope you are well!

Best,
Carla

Carla DiBlasio
Senior Policy Advisor/Legislative Counsel
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501

From: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) [mailto:Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, December 07, 2016 4:21 PM
To: Bill, Aaron; DiBlasio, Carla
Cc: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL); Howell, Cherie A. (CMS/OL)
Subject: 2017 Quality Payment Program Self-Nomination Guide for Registries

Hello Aaron and Carla ,

This is to let you know that the 2017 Quality Payment Program (QPP) Self-Nomination User Guide for vendors that want to participate as a Qualified Clinical Data Registry (QCDR) or Qualified Registry was posted on the CMS website today. This guide will help prospective vendors to understand how to self-nominate to participate in the program. It addresses the data needed to fully populate and submit a self-nomination, and also contains tips and visual aids to guide vendors through the self-nomination process.

For 2017, CMS requires prospective vendors to submit their complete self-nomination statement (including measures to be supported and the data validation plan) by January 15, 2017. The 2017 QPP Self-Nomination User Guide can be found at: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Value-Based-Programs/MACRA-MIPS-and-APMs/2017-Quality-Payment-Program-Self-Nomination-User-Guide.pdf>

Let us know if you have any questions. Thank you.

-Al

From: DiBlasio, Carla
Sent: 15 Jul 2016 14:11:30 +0000
To: Newlin, Manda (CMS/OL)
Cc: Druckman, Jennifer (CMS/OL);Martino, Maria (CMS/OL);Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
Subject: RE: A couple simple MACRA questions

Thanks so much for the response!

Have a wonderful weekend,
Carla

Carla DiBlasio
Senior Policy Advisor/Legislative Counsel
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501

From: Newlin, Manda (CMS/OL) [mailto:Manda.Newlin@cms.hhs.gov]
Sent: Friday, July 15, 2016 9:50 AM
To: DiBlasio, Carla
Cc: Druckman, Jennifer (CMS/OL); Martino, Maria (CMS/OL); Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
Subject: RE: A couple simple MACRA questions

Hi Carla,

We wanted to get back to you about your MACRA-related questions.

- 1) **When will the MACRA comments become fully available for public consumption?**
The comments submitted in response to the MACRA proposed rule are publically posted here: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=CMS-2016-0060>. To date, it appears there have been over 3,900 comments submitted.
- 2) **When does CMS plan to release the list of patient-facing encounter codes? Will it be before the final rule?**
As discussed in the MACRA proposed rule (81 FR 28174), we propose to define a non-patient-facing MIPS eligible clinician for MIPS at § 414.1305 as an individual MIPS eligible clinician or group that bills 25 or fewer patient-facing encounters during a performance period. We consider a patient-facing encounter as an instance in which the MIPS eligible clinician or group billed for services such as general office visits, outpatient visits, and surgical procedure codes under the physician fee schedule. We intend to publish the proposed list of patient-facing encounter codes on a CMS Web site similar to the way we currently publish the list of face-to-face encounter codes for PQRS. We are still determining the timing as to when these codes would be published.
- 3) **Under MACRA, what percentage of the upside risk goes directly to the physician? In other words, if a physician successfully generates substantial savings under an advanced APM, does the physician get to keep *any* said savings?**

The amount of payments and/or savings that a physician receives under an Advanced APM would be determined by the terms and conditions specific to the Advanced APM. The proposed MACRA rule does not make any changes to the financial arrangements of any Advanced APMs (or APMs). The MACRA proposal provides that if a physician has sufficient payments or patients in an Advanced APM, then the physician would be excluded from MIPS adjustments and receive a 5% Medicare Part B incentive payment for the particular payment year (81 FR 28294). At the same time, the physician would receive payments and/or savings through the Advanced APM as stipulated by the Advanced APM's terms and conditions.

We hope this information helps. Please let us know if you have any additional questions.

Thanks,
Manda

From: DiBlasio, Carla [mailto:Carla.DiBlasio@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2016 10:21 PM
To: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) <Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov>
Subject: A couple simple MACRA questions

Hey Al,

I hope this email finds you well! A couple simple questions came up recently and my boss wanted me to check in with you. We'd greatly appreciate your response to the following questions:

- 4) MACRA comments for public consumption:
When will the MACRA comments become fully available for public consumption? It's our impression that only a few of the MACRA comments are currently posted online and folks were hoping to see all comments given the great importance of the proposed rule on MACRA implementation.
- 5) Clarifying and ensuring maximum flexibility for non-patient-facing physicians within the MIPS program:
Dr. Price requests that CMS disclose the list of non-patient facing codes before the release of the final MACRA rule. **When does CMS plan to release the list of codes? Will it be before the final rule?**
- 6) Shared savings for physicians under advanced APMS:
Under MACRA, what percentage of the upside risk goes directly to the physician? **In other words, if a physician successfully generates substantial savings under an advanced APM, does the physician get to keep any said savings?**

Thanks so much!
Carla

Carla DiBlasio
Senior Policy Advisor/Legislative Counsel
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
100 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501

From: DiBlasio, Carla
Sent: 24 May 2016 19:38:19 +0000
To: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
Cc: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL)
Subject: Re: Bundled Payments for Care Improvement Hip Replacement with Fracture Pricing Stratification

Many thanks for the update!!

Carla DiBlasio
Policy Advisor/Legislative Counsel
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501

On May 24, 2016, at 3:34 PM, Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
<Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov> wrote:

Hello Carla –

We wanted to update you that CMS plans to modify the Bundled Payments for Care Improvement (BPCI) initiative's pricing methodology for BPCI Models 2, 3, and 4 for Major Joint Replacement of the Lower Extremity Clinical Episodes. This decision was made in response to BPCI Awardee feedback requesting that BPCI adopt a risk stratification approach similar to the Comprehensive Care for Joint Replacement pricing stratification methodology. The modified methodology will incorporate four sub-MS-DRGs that differentiate episodes that include hip fracture, as follows:

- MS-DRG 469 without hip fracture
- MS-DRG 469 with hip fracture
- MS-DRG 470 without hip fracture
- MS-DRG 470 with hip fracture

CMS has informed BPCI Awardees of this change, and is working now to create an amendment to the agreement to implement the modification to the pricing methodology. Once the amendment is approved, Awardees that currently have a Major Joint Replacement of the Lower Extremity clinical episode in BPCI will have the option to sign the amended agreement. Under this amendment, CMS will calculate new baseline and target prices for the Major Joint Replacement of the Lower Extremity Clinical Episode that adjust for whether a beneficiary has a hip fracture.

The BPCI initiative (as authorized under section 1115A of the Social Security Act as added by Section 3021 of the Affordable Care Act) is comprised of four broadly defined models of care, which link payments for the multiple services beneficiaries receive during an episode of care. Under the initiative, organizations enter into payment arrangements that include financial and performance accountability for episodes of care. These models may lead to higher quality and more coordinated care at a lower cost to Medicare. For more information on the BPCI initiative, please visit: <https://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/bundled-payments/>.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

-AI

From: DiBlasio, Carla
Sent: 10 May 2016 00:26:50 +0000
To: OReilly, Megan (CMS/OL)
Cc: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL);Keene, Danyail S. (CMS/OL);Dugan, Meghan
Subject: RE: call w/ Andy Slavitt

Megan,

My sincere apologies. I was out of town and missed your email. I've looped in our scheduler to see if there's any chance we can squeeze in a call with Mr. Slavitt on Wednesday before the hearing. If Mr. Slavitt will be on the Hill on Wednesday, is there any chance Dr. Price could speak with him in person before the hearing? I'm sure Dr. Price would welcome the opportunity for a private conversation.

Thanks!
Carla

Carla DiBlasio
Policy Advisor/Legislative Counsel
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501



From: OReilly, Megan (CMS/OL) [mailto:Megan.OReilly@cms.hhs.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 06, 2016 11:39 AM
To: DiBlasio, Carla
Cc: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL); Keene, Danyail S. (CMS/OL)
Subject: call w/ Andy Slavitt

Hi Carla- I know we have Dr. Price and Patrick scheduled to talk next week, but I also wanted to check in about scheduling a short call with your boss and the Acting Administrator ahead of Wednesday's MACRA hearing. Let me know if there are times he could be available for a short call.

Best,
Megan

From: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL)
Sent: 9 May 2016 21:03:52 +0000
To: 'Dugan, Meghan';OReilly, Megan (CMS/OL)
Cc: DiBlasio, Carla;Twomey , John;Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
Subject: RE: Follow-up call

How about any of these:

Thu, May 12: 1:30 or 2:00
Fri, May 13: 8:30, 10:00, 1:30, 3:30

From: Dugan, Meghan [mailto:Meghan.Dugan@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Monday, May 9, 2016 4:46 PM
To: OReilly, Megan (CMS/OL) <Megan.OReilly@cms.hhs.gov>
Cc: DiBlasio, Carla <Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov>; Twomey , John <John.Twomey@mail.house.gov>; Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) <Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov>; Martino, Maria (CMS/OL) <Maria.Martino@cms.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Follow-up call

Megan,

Sorry to change things up last minute but we had a conflict arise tomorrow during the time we had set aside for the call. Is there any way we could move the call to later in the week, like on Thursday or Friday?

Thanks!

From: OReilly, Megan (CMS/OL) [mailto:Megan.OReilly@cms.hhs.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2016 12:15 PM
To: Dugan, Meghan
Cc: DiBlasio, Carla; Twomey , John; Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL); Martino, Maria (CMS/OL)
Subject: RE: Follow-up call

This is the best number to use and we will connect Dr. Price to Patrick. 202.690.6726

From: Dugan, Meghan [mailto:Meghan.Dugan@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 4, 2016 8:31 AM
To: OReilly, Megan (CMS/OL) <Megan.OReilly@cms.hhs.gov>
Cc: DiBlasio, Carla <Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov>; Twomey , John <John.Twomey@mail.house.gov>; Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) <Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov>; Martino, Maria (CMS/OL) <Maria.Martino@cms.hhs.gov>
Subject: Re: Follow-up call

Megan,

1:00 will work perfectly for our schedule. What is the best number for Dr. Price to use?

Thank you,

Meghan

On May 3, 2016, at 7:08 PM, OReilly, Megan (CMS/OL) <Megan.OReilly@cms.hhs.gov> wrote:

Could 9:30 or 1 pm work?

From: OReilly, Megan (CMS/OL)
Sent: Tuesday, May 03, 2016 07:42 PM
To: 'Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov' <Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov>; OReilly, Megan (CMS/OL)
Cc: 'Meghan.Dugan@mail.house.gov' <Meghan.Dugan@mail.house.gov>; 'John.Twomey@mail.house.gov' <John.Twomey@mail.house.gov>; Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL); Martino, Maria (CMS/OL)
Subject: Re: Follow-up call

Thanks Carla- let us get some times for you and will follow-up tomorrow.

From: DiBlasio, Carla [mailto:Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, May 03, 2016 07:09 PM
To: OReilly, Megan (CMS/OL)
Cc: Dugan, Meghan <Meghan.Dugan@mail.house.gov>; Twomey, John <John.Twomey@mail.house.gov>; Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
Subject: Follow-up call

Hey Megan,

Thanks again for your follow-up on the MACRA rule. Congressman Price would like to setup a MACRA follow-up call with Dr. Conway next week once he's back in DC. Do you have any availability on Tuesday afternoon next week for a quick call? I've copied our scheduler here.

Many thanks!
Carla

Carla DiBlasio
Policy Advisor/Legislative Counsel
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501

<image001.png> <image002.png>  <image004.png> <image005.png>

From: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL)
Sent: 10 May 2016 14:01:32 +0000
To: 'Dugan, Meghan'; OReilly, Megan (CMS/OL)
Cc: DiBlasio, Carla; Twomey, John; Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
Subject: RE: Follow-up call

Hi Meghan—we're confirmed for Friday at 1:30. I assume Dr. Price will still want to call Dr. Conway? His phone is 202.690.6726.

From: Dugan, Meghan [mailto:Meghan.Dugan@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Monday, May 9, 2016 6:10 PM
To: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL) <Maria.Martino@cms.hhs.gov>; OReilly, Megan (CMS/OL) <Megan.OReilly@cms.hhs.gov>
Cc: DiBlasio, Carla <Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov>; Twomey, John <John.Twomey@mail.house.gov>; Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) <Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Follow-up call

1:30 on Friday will be perfect thank you so much!

From: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL) [mailto:Maria.Martino@cms.hhs.gov]
Sent: Monday, May 09, 2016 5:04 PM
To: Dugan, Meghan; OReilly, Megan (CMS/OL)
Cc: DiBlasio, Carla; Twomey, John; Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
Subject: RE: Follow-up call

How about any of these:

Thu, May 12: 1:30 or 2:00
Fri, May 13: 8:30, 10:00, 1:30, 3:30

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To: OReilly, Megan (CMS/OL) <Megan.OReilly@cms.hhs.gov>
Cc: DiBlasio, Carla <Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov>; Twomey, John <John.Twomey@mail.house.gov>; Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) <Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov>; Martino, Maria (CMS/OL) <Maria.Martino@cms.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Follow-up call

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Thanks!

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Cc: DiBlasio, Carla <Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov>; Twomey, John <John.Twomey@mail.house.gov>; Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) <Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov>; Martino, Maria (CMS/OL) <Maria.Martino@cms.hhs.gov>
Subject: Re: Follow-up call

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Cc: 'Meghan.Dugan@mail.house.gov' <Meghan.Dugan@mail.house.gov>; 'John.Twomey@mail.house.gov' <John.Twomey@mail.house.gov>; Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL); Martino, Maria (CMS/OL)
Subject: Re: Follow-up call

Thanks Carla- let us get some times for you and will follow-up tomorrow.

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Cc: Dugan, Meghan <Meghan.Dugan@mail.house.gov>; Twomey, John <John.Twomey@mail.house.gov>; Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
Subject: Follow-up call

Hey Megan,

Thanks again for your follow-up on the MACRA rule. Congressman Price would like to setup a MACRA follow-up call with Dr. Conway next week once he's back in DC. Do you have any availability on Tuesday afternoon next week for a quick call? I've copied our scheduler here.

Many thanks!
Carla

Carla DiBlasio
Policy Advisor/Legislative Counsel
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501

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From: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
Sent: 17 Mar 2016 13:36:57 -0400
To: Dugan, Meghan;DiBlasio, Carla
Cc: Howell, Cherie A. (CMS/OL)
Subject: RE: Follow-up to call with Chairman Price and Patrick Conway

Is there any Wednesday (3/23) time available? 9:30 – 10, 11 – 12:30, or 4 – 5 pm?

From: Dugan, Meghan [mailto:Meghan.Dugan@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 10:42 AM
To: DiBlasio, Carla; Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
Cc: Howell, Cherie A. (CMS/OL)
Subject: RE: Follow-up to call with Chairman Price and Patrick Conway

Good Morning Al,

We have anything between 1-3 on Monday open for a call, as well as space from 3-6 on Tuesday, and anything from 10-1 on Thursday.

Meghan

From: DiBlasio, Carla
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 9:44 AM
To: 'Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)'
Cc: Dugan, Meghan; Howell, Cherie A. (CMS/OL)
Subject: RE: Follow-up to call with Chairman Price and Patrick Conway

Will do, thanks Al!

Yep, he'll want to focus most of the conversation on CJR, more specifically the upcoming CJR implementation on April 1st. Chairman Price may briefly bring up the shoulder issue and his concerns about the new Part B drug demo, as well.

Congressman Price really appreciates the opportunity to have an open conversation with Dr. Conway, so we really appreciate you keeping the lines of communication open.

Thanks so much!

Carla

Carla DiBlasio, Esq.
Policy Advisor
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501



From: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) [mailto:Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 9:40 AM
To: DiBlasio, Carla
Cc: Dugan, Meghan; Howell, Cherie A. (CMS/OL)
Subject: RE: Follow-up to call with Chairman Price and Patrick Conway

Good Morning Carla & Meghan – please send us some dates/times next week Chairman Price is available and we'll see what works for Patrick. To be clear, the Congressman wants to discuss CJR and the shoulder issue? Thanks.

-Al

From: DiBlasio, Carla [mailto:Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 3:41 PM
To: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
Cc: Dugan, Meghan
Subject: RE: Follow-up to call with Chairman Price and Patrick Conway

Hey Al,

I hope you're doing well. I had the pleasure of speaking with Jen Druckman last week. She instructed me to follow-up with you to setup a call with Patrick Conway and Congressman Price so they may discuss CJR. Is there any availability for a call next week? I've copied our scheduler, Meghan Dugan.

Thanks, as always!
Carla

Carla DiBlasio, Esq.
Policy Advisor
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501



From: DiBlasio, Carla
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 12:54 PM
To: 'Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)'
Subject: RE: Follow-up to call with Chairman Price and Patrick Conway

Thanks All!

I apologize I've been stuck in meetings all day. I've attached the letter my boss recently sent to CMS on the shoulder issue. I've also attached the letter my boss sent to CMS on CJR back in September. I realize that CMS responded and CJR was since finalized. However, many of his concerns remain the same.

I was hoping to learn more about Patrick Conway's ideas for reform in the Meaningful Use program for 2016. This was follow-up to the phone with Patrick Conway last week. I believe I emailed you and Jennifer Druckman about it last week.

I'll call you this afternoon in between meetings. Let me know if you prefer a specific time, and I'll do my best to accommodate. My schedule has been in flux today. Thanks so much for your patience.

Best,
Carla

Carla DiBlasio, Esq.
Policy Advisor
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501



From: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) [<mailto:Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 10:51 AM
To: DiBlasio, Carla
Subject: RE: Follow-up to call with Chairman Price and Patrick Conway

Hello Carla –

Can you give me a call this afternoon to discuss your orthopedic issues/CJR/shoulder coding issues call request? Thanks.

Al Chadwick
Office of Legislation/Congressional Affairs Group
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
200 Independence Ave, SW
Room 351G
Washington, DC 20201
202-690-5519 (Phone)
202-690-8168 (Fax)
alpheus.chadwick@cms.hhs.gov

From: DiBlasio, Carla [<mailto:Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2016 3:32 PM
To: Druckman, Jennifer (CMS/OL)
Cc: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
Subject: Follow-up to call with Chairman Price and Patrick Conway

Hey Jennifer,

Thanks so much for arranging the call with Patrick Conway and Congressman Price. I know Dr. Price thought it was a helpful conversation. Dr. Price would like me to follow-up with you in another phone call to discuss options for Congress to create greater flexibility in the program in 2016 that would also be helpful/workable for CMS. Do you have time for a call early next week?

Additionally, Dr. Price would like me to arrange another call for him to discuss orthopedic issues with CMS, including CJR and a shoulder coding issue. I informed Al last night of Dr. Price's intention of bringing it up with Patrick Conway this morning, but Al led me to believe that we would need to setup a separate call for that.. and that would be possible. We greatly appreciate the helpful dialogue!

Thanks again!

Carla

Carla DiBlasio, Esq.
Policy Advisor
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501



From: DiBlasio, Carla
Sent: 28 Apr 2016 19:54:44 +0000
To: OReilly, Megan (CMS/OL)
Cc: Robinson, William (CMS/OL);Martino, Maria (CMS/OL);Keene, Danyail S. (CMS/OL)
Subject: RE: Follow-up

I am so sorry for not responding right away. I would be delighted to speak this afternoon if it's not too late. If not, I would love to chat tomorrow morning.

Let me know your availability.

Thanks so much!
Carla

Carla DiBlasio
Policy Advisor/Legislative Counsel
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501



From: OReilly, Megan (CMS/OL) [mailto:Megan.OReilly@cms.hhs.gov]
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2016 1:13 PM
To: DiBlasio, Carla
Cc: Robinson, William (CMS/OL); Martino, Maria (CMS/OL); Keene, Danyail S. (CMS/OL)
Subject: Follow-up

Carla- we wanted to follow-up on your boss's conversation with Dr. Conway last night and your follow-up email. Is there are time this afternoon you are free for a call?

Best,
Megan

From: DiBlasio, Carla
Sent: 18 Jun 2016 00:58:20 +0000
To: Howell, Cherie A. (CMS/OL)
Cc: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL); Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
Subject: RE: Hello, I just tried to call to make sure you saw CMS Clinical Lab Final Rule Hill Note

Many thanks!! Have a wonderful weekend!

From: Howell, Cherie A. (CMS/OL) [<mailto:Cherie.Howell@cms.hhs.gov>]
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2016 4:51 PM
To: DiBlasio, Carla
Cc: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL); Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
Subject: RE: Hello, I just tried to call to make sure you saw CMS Clinical Lab Final Rule Hill Note

Al asked that you get a heads up because of your previous interest. After you have had a chance to read the hill note, if you have questions, feel free to call Al on Monday.

From: DiBlasio, Carla [<mailto:Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2016 4:48 PM
To: Howell, Cherie A. (CMS/OL) <Cherie.Howell@cms.hhs.gov>
Cc: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL) <Maria.Martino@cms.hhs.gov>; Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) <Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov>
Subject: Re: Hello, I just tried to call to make sure you saw CMS Clinical Lab Final Rule Hill Note

Thanks so much for the call.

I apologize I am stuck in a meeting. Happy to call you back if there's anything you'd like to discuss or highlight.

Really appreciate your outreach!

Best,
Carla

Carla DiBlasio
Policy Advisor/Legislative Counsel
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
[100 Cannon House Office Building](#)
[Washington, DC 20515](#) | [202.225.4501](tel:202.225.4501)

On Jun 17, 2016, at 4:42 PM, Howell, Cherie A. (CMS/OL) <Cherie.Howell@cms.hhs.gov> wrote:

From: DiBlasio, Carla
Sent: 14 Jul 2015 14:37:45 +0000
To: Druckman, Jennifer (CMS/OL)
Cc: Baker, Brett;Janeczko, Susan (CMS/OL);Martino, Maria (CMS/OL);Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
Subject: RE: ICD-10 code omission for specific cancer treatment

Thanks for your help, Jennifer.

I will track it down and send it to you as soon as I can.

Many thanks,
Carla

Carla DiBlasio, Esq.
Policy Advisor
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501



From: Druckman, Jennifer (CMS/OL) [mailto:Jennifer.Druckman@cms.hhs.gov]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2015 4:26 PM
To: DiBlasio, Carla
Cc: Baker, Brett; Janeczko, Susan (CMS/OL); Martino, Maria (CMS/OL); Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
Subject: RE: ICD-10 code omission for specific cancer treatment

Hi Carla,

Thanks for your note. We're looking in to this. Do you have the Code Committee's proposed solution handy or a link to it?

Regards,
Jennifer

From: DiBlasio, Carla [mailto:Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2015 11:31 AM
To: Druckman, Jennifer (CMS/OL)
Cc: Baker, Brett
Subject: ICD-10 code omission for specific cancer treatment

Jennifer,

Recently, our office was made aware of a code omission that occurred during the ICD-9 crosswalk to ICD-10. Specifically, the ICD-9 Procedure Code ((00.10) *Pharmaceuticals, Implantation of Chemotherapeutic Agent; Brain Wafer Chemotherapy; Interstitial/Intracavitary*) did not transition to the

draft ICD-10 code set. This code omission was communicated to the ICD-10 Code Committee in January 2014. In February 2014, the Code Committee acknowledged omission of the code and proposed an interim solution (assigning procedure code 3E0Q305 which describes the introduction of “other antineoplastic into cranial cavity and brain, percutaneous approach”). Unfortunately, this will only add more confusion for providers, as the description is incorrect and does not describe the procedure. Moreover, the Committee suggested that this interim solution would be effective after the code freeze is lifted a year after the implementation of ICD-10. Both thought leaders and the impact pharmaceutical company, Arbor Pharmaceuticals, submitted comments to the Code Committee in March and April of 2014 seeking a positive resolution, but have not been able to resolve this issue.

The conversion to ICD-10 already has the potential to strain the system and add confusion. In light of the fact that the Code Committee has acknowledged this error, but has not sufficiently provided a remedy, what else can HHS do to ensure that this barrier to cancer treatment is removed? We would like to speak about this issue at your earliest convenience.

Many thanks,
Carla

Carla DiBlasio, Esq.
Policy Advisor
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501



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Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
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Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501



From: DiBlasio, Carla
Sent: 26 May 2016 12:34:37 +0000
To: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
Cc: Zebley, Kyle; Beck, Gary; Martino, Maria (CMS/OL); Howell, Cherie A. (CMS/OL)
Subject: Re: Letter to CMS on Home Health Prior Authorization
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png, image003.png, image004.png, image005.png

Thanks, Al!!

Carla DiBlasio
Policy Advisor/Legislative Counsel
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501

On May 26, 2016, at 7:57 AM, Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
<Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov> wrote:

Good Morning Carla – I will get this letter to the appropriate folks here. Thx.

-Al

From: DiBlasio, Carla [<mailto:Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2016 8:52 PM
To: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) <Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov>
Cc: Zebley, Kyle <Kyle.Zebley@mail.house.gov>; Beck, Gary <Gary.Beck@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Letter to CMS on Home Health Prior Authorization

Good evening, Al

Please find attached a letter to CMS signed by 116 Members of Congress urging CMS to rescind the proposed mandatory prior authorization for home health as a demonstration in five states. We encourage CMS to refrain from moving forward with the proposed demonstration project in order to avoid delays or a disruption in patient care and prevent restrictions on patient access to home health services.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Many thanks,
Carla

Carla DiBlasio
Policy Advisor/Legislative Counsel
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501

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From: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL)
Sent: 2 Feb 2012 17:48:29 +0000
To: 'Burkhalter, Natalie'
Cc: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
Subject: RE: payment process info

Hi Natalie--- thanks for reaching out. I've copied Al Chadwick of my staff who is your designated CMS liaison. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Al can get you more information on your specific question-- but I believe there are timeframes that the law prescribes for the length of time between submission of a claim and payment. Al, can you check this out and get back to Natalie?

Thanks!

Maria Martino
Director
Congressional Affairs Group
CMS\Office of Legislation
(202) 690-5512

From: Burkhalter, Natalie [mailto:Natalie.Burkhalter@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:25 PM
To: Martino, Maria (CMS/OL)
Subject: payment process info

Hi Maria,

I am Rep. Price's new health care staff, I got your email from a former colleague of mine gave me your email. My boss asked me to reach out to you all to see if you have any information or metrics on the length of time between submission of a claim and payment. Anything you could provide me on the issue would be helpful.

Thank you,

Natalie Burkhalter

Office of Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
403 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
p: (202) 225-4501
f: (202) 225-4656

From: DiBlasio, Carla
Sent: 17 Nov 2016 18:14:57 +0000
To: Druckman, Jennifer (CMS/OL)
Cc: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL);Martino, Maria (CMS/OL);Scott, Anne B. (CMS/OL);Newlin, Manda (CMS/OL)
Subject: RE: Quality Payment Program Update

Apologies for not responding right away. Thanks so much!!

Carla DiBlasio
Senior Policy Advisor/Legislative Counsel
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501

From: Druckman, Jennifer (CMS/OL) [mailto:Jennifer.Druckman@cms.hhs.gov]
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2016 9:21 AM
To: DiBlasio, Carla
Cc: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL); Martino, Maria (CMS/OL); Scott, Anne B. (CMS/OL); Newlin, Manda (CMS/OL)
Subject: Quality Payment Program Update

Hi Carla,

We wanted to touch base with you this morning on two items, first, to let you know that today CMS is updating the website for the Quality Payment Program (QPP). The update will include additional information, including the following: Draft 2017 Measure Specifications; a Measure Specifications Implementation Guide and a Measure Specifications Fact Sheet; and a document on How to Design an APM Toolkit. In addition, CMS is opening the self-nomination process for registries and qualified clinical data registries, and fact sheets about these processes have been added to the website. All the information can be found on the QPP website at: <https://qpp.cms.gov/education>.

In addition, we below are answers to specific questions that you had asked us about the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System as well as certain Alternative Payment Models.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Jen

Q: How does the MIPS payment formula work? What is the performance curve? For example, if a group practice obtains a near-perfect score—but only submitted for a 90-day time period rather than a year--- will they still be eligible for the maximum adjustment or the exceptional bonus?

A: In general, if a group practice achieves a near perfect score based on data submitted for 90 days, this total score will be treated the same way as a total score that is based on a full year of reporting.

MIPS Payment Formula – The performance threshold is the dividing line that determines which MIPS eligible clinicians receive a positive payment adjustment and which receive a negative adjustment. For the transition year, CMS finalized a low performance threshold, 3 out of a possible 100 points. Eligible clinicians with a final score at or above the performance threshold will receive a zero or positive adjustment factor on a linear sliding scale.

Moreover, MIPS has an “additional performance threshold” to reward exceptional performance through another positive MIPS adjustment factor. \$500 million will be distributed to those whose final scores exceed an additional performance threshold, which is established in the first year at 70 points. Positive payment adjustments for exceptional performance will be applied on a linear scale for scores that range between the additional performance threshold of 70 to a perfect final score of 100.

In the first year of MIPS, clinicians who want to fully participate and achieve a high score should submit complete data under the 3 required performance categories: Quality; Advancing Care Information; and Improvement Activities.

For each of the 3 categories, data can be submitted for a period of 90 days or a longer period of time up to one year. For the quality performance category, it may be that a longer performance period will provide greater assurance of reliability with respect to the submitted data, and clinicians who have the ability to submit data for a period of time greater than 90 days are encouraged to do so.

- For example, there is a 20 case minimum threshold for each measure to ensure that it can be scored reliably for a clinician or group. Although clinicians will receive a base score for submitting data on each measure even if the case minimum isn't met, a clinician or a group striving for a high score and choosing to submit data for only 90 days should ensure that the measure data submitted meets the 20 case minimum. This will allow the measure to be scored and depending on performance, potentially receive a higher score up to the maximum number of points.
- In addition, there are some measures that require a reporting period that spans more than 90 days -- for example, those that have a specified time period for required follow-up or those looking for improvement in an outcome. These measures are not as conducive to reporting for 90 days, and clinicians choosing this shorter time period should consider other available MIPS measures.

Q: Is there a difference between the maximum adjustment and the exceptional bonus?

A: As required by law, there are two payment adjustments –

- The first payment adjustment is either positive or negative based on the total score and where that score falls relative to the performance threshold. The performance threshold is the dividing line that determines which MIPS eligible clinicians receive a negative payment adjustment and which receive a positive adjustment. For the

transition year, CMS finalized a low performance threshold, 3 out of a possible 100 points. Eligible clinicians with a final score at or above the performance threshold will receive a zero or positive adjustment factor on a linear sliding scale. The exact positive adjustment amounts will be determined after the performance period in order to maintain budget neutrality.

- The additional payment adjustment for exceptional performance is to reward exceptional performance through another positive MIPS adjustment factor. \$500 million will be distributed as a bonus to those whose final scores exceed an additional performance threshold, which is established in the first year at 70 points. Positive payment adjustments for exceptional performance will be applied on a linear scale for scores that range between the additional performance threshold of 70 to a perfect final score of 100.

Q: Why is there no *formal* appeals process? In addition, there is an informal appeals process for PQRS and MU. What is this process, and have we published it somewhere?

A: In section 1848(q)(13) of the Social Security Act, as established by MACRA, the law specifically allows for a targeted review under MIPS and requires the Secretary to establish a process under which a MIPS eligible professional can seek an informal review of the calculation of the payment adjustment. We have established this informal review process in the recently released final rule for the QPP. (Please see the discussion of the targeted review process in the final rule beginning on page 77353 at this link – <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-11-04/pdf/2016-25240.pdf>

The process that is finalized is laid out on page 77358.)

- For information on the current PQRS informal review process, please see the document at the following link --<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/PQRS/Downloads/2015PQRSIR2017PayAdjMadeSimple.pdf>
- For information on the current appeals process for the Medicare EHR Incentive Program, please see the following link -- https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/Downloads/AppealsAudits_EHRAppealsOverview.pdf

Q: When will non-patient facing codes become available (for example for radiologists)?

A: The final rule defines a non-patient facing MIPS eligible clinician as a clinician who bills 100 or fewer patient-facing encounters during a specified period of time. The encounter codes to determine if a clinician is a non-patient facing MIPS eligible clinician will be published on the CMS website in the next few months.

Q: Cost of Compliance – A recent GAO report on the cost of compliance has different compliance costs than CMS. GAO states that the average annual cost is \$40,000 per doctor annually; the CMS rule states it is \$1,200 per doctor. What is the difference?

A: The two estimates were derived in different ways and measured different compliance costs, as explained below –

Estimate in Final QPP Rule – The estimate in the final rule was made based on estimated time and labor costs. In addition, the rule explains that the burden associated with submitting quality measures will vary depending on the submission method selected by the clinician or group (e.g., claims, registry, EHR, etc.). As an example, for quality measure submission, the estimate takes into consideration the following: start-up costs (reviewing measure specifications, selecting a submission option, incorporating submission of measures into the office work flow), and data submission costs. The estimated annual cost of submitting quality measures per clinician or group varies between \$1,206 for EHR submission and \$1,796 for claims submission.

GAO Report – The GAO report referenced (Health Care Quality – HHS Should Set Priorities and Comprehensively Plan Its Efforts to Better Align Health Quality Measures) includes a reference on page 12 to an article that appeared in *Health Affairs* in March 2016. This article was based on a web-based survey of 1,000 randomly selected physician practices from four specialties. The survey asked about time spent by physicians and staff on activities related to reporting and inspecting quality data. The focus was on all quality data required from all payers, not only Medicare data. The time estimates were converted into costs. The article also states that the study had multiple limitations, including a relatively low response rate.

Q: Some are concerned MIPS will limit the number of specialty measures. How are measures eliminated, and explain the process to eliminate specialty measures?

A: Increasing the availability of specialty measures is a priority, recognizing that clinicians need to report measures that are most relevant and pertinent to their practices. On the QPP website, all the MIPS quality measures are listed, and they are further categorized by specialty (in 30 separate specialty areas). This can be seen at this link: <https://qpp.cms.gov/measures/quality>. Scroll down to where it says “Select Measures” and on the right click on the drop-down menu for the specialty measure set.

In addition to selecting measures from this list, specialty clinicians can report through a Qualified Clinical Data Registry, which includes additional measures and in some cases specialty-specific measures, depending on the registry.

Q: Impact Table for Small Practices – Can we get a copy of the Impact Table for small practices that suggests that 90 percent of small practices will not be impacted?

A: Please see tables 62 and 63 of the final rule at: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-11-04/pdf/2016-25240.pdf>

The tables can be found on pages 77530 and 77531.

Note that table 62 shows the estimated payment year 2019 impact on total allowed charges by practice size. Table 63 shows the estimated impact using an alternative scoring model.

Q: CJR – Will CJR and BPCI be considered APMs for 2017 and 2018?

A: For performance year 2017, CMS has determined that CJR and BPCI models 2-4 are not Advanced APMs. CJR currently does not qualify as an Advanced APM because it does not

require participants to use certified electronic health record technology (CEHRT), one of the criteria that a model must meet in order to be an Advanced APM. However, we have proposed to create a track in CJR that would include a CEHRT use requirement. If this proposal is finalized, we anticipate that the CJR CEHRT Track would meet the criteria in the final Quality Payment Program rule to be an Advanced APM for performance year 2018. In addition, building on BPCI, we intend to implement a new voluntary bundled payment model for CY 2018 where the model would be designed to meet the criteria to be an Advanced APM. We will publish a final 2018 performance year Advanced APM list before January 1, 2018.

From: DiBlasio, Carla
Sent: 25 Jul 2016 19:24:03 +0000
To: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
Cc: Howell, Cherie A. (CMS/OL); Martino, Maria (CMS/OL); Dugan, Meghan
Subject: RE: Request for Congressman Price to visit your Baltimore HQ

Thanks, Al!

Would it be possible to incorporate CMMI in the tour?

From: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) [mailto:Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov]
Sent: Monday, July 25, 2016 3:21 PM
To: DiBlasio, Carla
Cc: Howell, Cherie A. (CMS/OL); Martino, Maria (CMS/OL); Dugan, Meghan
Subject: RE: Request for Congressman Price to visit your Baltimore HQ

Hello Carla – I want to circle back to ask if there was a particular area of interest to the Congressman during his tour? Thanks.

From: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2016 4:29 PM
To: 'Dugan, Meghan' <Meghan.Dugan@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Howell, Cherie A. (CMS/OL) <Cherie.Howell@cms.hhs.gov>; DiBlasio, Carla <Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov>; Martino, Maria (CMS/OL) <Maria.Martino@cms.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for Congressman Price to visit your Baltimore HQ

Hello Meghan – thank you very much for your cooperation, and we have the visit confirmed on our end for Tuesday, 8/23 from 10:00-11:30 at our CMS Headquarters in Baltimore.

-Al

From: Dugan, Meghan [mailto:Meghan.Dugan@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2016 4:09 PM
To: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) <Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov>
Cc: Howell, Cherie A. (CMS/OL) <Cherie.Howell@cms.hhs.gov>; DiBlasio, Carla <Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for Congressman Price to visit your Baltimore HQ

That will work fine thank you Al.

From: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) [mailto:Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov]
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2016 5:05 PM
To: Dugan, Meghan
Cc: Howell, Cherie A. (CMS/OL); DiBlasio, Carla
Subject: RE: Request for Congressman Price to visit your Baltimore HQ

Hello Meghan – I am sorry I am only now seeing your response. Unfortunately, the only date/time that Andy and Dr. Patrick have is Tuesday, 8/23 10:00-11:30. Will that work for Dr. Price? If not, please suggest other dates/times that may work.

Al Chadwick
Office of Legislation/Congressional Affairs Group
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
200 Independence Ave, SW
Room 351G
Washington, DC 20201
202-690-5519 (Phone)
202-690-8168 (Fax)
alpheus.chadwick@cms.hhs.gov

From: Dugan, Meghan [<mailto:Meghan.Dugan@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 4:00 PM
To: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) <Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov>; DiBlasio, Carla <Carla.DiBlasio@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Howell, Cherie A. (CMS/OL) <Cherie.Howell@cms.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for Congressman Price to visit your Baltimore HQ

Al,

I was able to secure a time for Dr. Price to come and tour the facility. Will 12:30-2:00 still work for your schedule?

Meghan

From: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) [<mailto:Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 10:42 AM
To: Dugan, Meghan; DiBlasio, Carla
Cc: Howell, Cherie A. (CMS/OL)
Subject: RE: Request for Congressman Price to visit your Baltimore HQ

Hello Meghan – thx and please let me know because I don't know how long I can hold these dates/times. Also, do let me know if there are other dates/times when Dr. Price is available in August.

-Al

From: Dugan, Meghan [<mailto:Meghan.Dugan@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 10:26 AM
To: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) <Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov>; DiBlasio, Carla <Carla.DiBlasio@mail.house.gov>

Cc: Howell, Cherie A. (CMS/OL) <Cherie.Howell@cms.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for Congressman Price to visit your Baltimore HQ

Al,

Thanks for reaching back out. I'm not sure if Dr. Price is slated to be up here during that week in August so I will be back with you shortly when I know for sure.

Thank you!
Meghan

From: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) [mailto:Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov]
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 2:26 PM
To: DiBlasio, Carla
Cc: Dugan, Meghan; Howell, Cherie A. (CMS/OL)
Subject: RE: Request for Congressman Price to visit your Baltimore HQ

Hello Carla & Meghan –

I want to provide you with dates/times that Andy Slavitt, CMS Acting Administrator, and Dr. Patrick Conway, Principle Deputy Administrator are available:

Monday, 8/22 1-2:30 again between 3:00-5:00pm
Tuesday, 8/23 10:00-11:30 and 12:30-2:00pm

Can you please let us know which of these dates/times work for Congressman Price to visit?
Thanks.

-Al

From: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL)
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2016 7:42 AM
To: DiBlasio, Carla <Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Dugan, Meghan <Meghan.Dugan@mail.house.gov>; Howell, Cherie A. (CMS/OL) <Cherie.Howell@cms.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for Congressman Price to visit your Baltimore HQ

Hello Carla – hope you had a great weekend. I will bring this request before my leadership. Is there a particular area of interest to the Congressman? Thanks.

-Al

From: DiBlasio, Carla [mailto:Carla.Diblasio@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2016 6:15 PM
To: Chadwick, Alpheus K. (CMS/OL) <Alpheus.Chadwick@cms.hhs.gov>
Cc: Dugan, Meghan <Meghan.Dugan@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Request for Congressman Price to visit your Baltimore HQ

Hey Al,

I hope this email finds you well. I wanted to put you in touch with our scheduler, Meghan Dugan. Congressman Price is very interested in visiting CMS headquarters in August this summer. Would a tour and meeting be possible? He's never been on site and would love to make a visit.

Thanks so much, and have a great weekend!

Carla

Carla DiBlasio
Policy Advisor/Legislative Counsel
Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (GA-06)
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.4501

