

**PACIFIC BUSINESS GROUP ON HEALTH TO COMMENT ON NEWLY RELEASED
PROPOSED RULE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF MACRA**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (April 29, 2016) – Earlier this week, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to guide the implementation of key provisions of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA). This new approach to pay clinicians based on the value and quality of care is a tremendous step forward in transforming our nation’s health care system. We applaud CMS for its work in operationalizing the legislation’s intent to promote alternatives to traditional fee-for-service payment and the use of meaningful performance measures. It is important for these Alternative Payment Models (APMs) to provide meaningful rewards to high-performing clinicians who accept accountability for the quality, patient experience and cost of the services they provide. We are pleased to see that the proposed rule designates Next Generation ACOs as an Advanced Alternative Payment Model, and we support the exclusion of Track 1 ACOs from the APM program. PBGH will be undertaking a detailed analysis of the proposed rule, paying close attention to areas of importance to employers. As we develop our letter to CMS, we will also be reaching out to employers for their input.

The Pacific Business Group on Health (PBGH) is a not-for-profit organization that leverages the strength of its 60 members – who collectively spend \$40 billion a year purchasing health care services for more than 10 million Americans – to drive improvements in quality and affordability across the U.S. health system.

Please contact Bill Kramer, Executive Director for National Health Policy, at wkramer@pbgh.org with questions or comments.