

PBGH Statement on the Quality Payment Program, finalized today

October 14, 2016

The Pacific Business Group on Health (PBGH) applauds the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for making important steps toward meaningful value-based payment in the newly finalized [Quality Payment Program \(QPP\)](#). The program's two tracks include incentives for clinicians to improve quality and outcomes, lower cost, and use health IT effectively. The incentives and requirements of the QPP will have an impact on the entire health care system if private health plans and large employers align their efforts with Medicare and continue to move toward [value-based payment](#).

The success of this program will depend on CMS to maintain a high bar for performance through the use of high-value metrics and meaningful benchmarks for quality, affordability, and effective use of health IT. To achieve that, we encourage CMS to use every opportunity to require clinicians to report outcome measures in both tracks of the program, and to prioritize alternative payment models (APMs) that commit to public transparency on meaningful patient-centered outcomes. We understand that the flexible "pick your path" approach provides clinicians multiple ways to participate in the first year of the program in order to support a smooth transition to more value-based payments. At the same time, we are concerned that the new flexible options taken together will dilute the potential benefits of the new payment program for patients. Each delay in implementing robust payment arrangements disrupts needed progress on improving the quality and affordability of care. As the program moves forward, we urge CMS to support and incentivize payment models that demonstrate meaningful improvements in cost and quality.

We are optimistic that the QPP will catalyze a system-wide shift towards a more person-centered, high-value health care system so long as future revisions balance the needs of all stakeholders - including consumers and purchasers.

Read PBGH's previous statements and comments related to the Quality Payment Program:

- [Videos and statement on the enactment of the MACRA law that created the program](#)
- [Comments on the RFI to inform the initial design of the QPP](#)
- [Statement](#) and [comments](#) on the initial proposed design of the QPP