

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 11, 2014

Ms. Marilyn Tavenner
Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Administrator Tavenner,

We write today with concerns regarding the 2015 Advance Notice on payments for beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare Advantage (MA) plans. We are concerned that the provisions of the proposed 2015 MA payment rates will have a negative impact on beneficiaries.

Medicare Advantage serves our constituents well, particularly those with high rates of chronic disease. In fact, more than 15 million seniors and individuals with disabilities enroll in an MA plan, which accounts for 29% of all Medicare beneficiaries. These plans are proven to contain costs and improve enrollee health outcomes by focusing on prevention and disease management, which reduce the need for unnecessary hospitalizations. Further, research demonstrates that readmission rates of beneficiaries enrolled in MA plans was 13 percent to 20 percent lower than that in the Medicare FFS program. We believe that the cuts in the Advance Notice are inconsistent with our health care policy goals to promote more high quality, coordinated care for Medicare beneficiaries.

Medicare Advantage beneficiaries should not be forced to shoulder any further funding cuts to the program. Continued regulatory changes create confusion among beneficiaries who are looking for predictability. We urge you to keep the 2015 MA payments rates stable at 2014 levels because the proposed cuts will jeopardize beneficiary access to the high quality care these plans provide.

Sincerely,





Gregg Harper

Jackie Walsati

Long Harper Coold Point

Bill Pong

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Alan Ammelie

Fred R. Wansley

Davin Num

Lee Sims

Kevin Crane

Robert Williams

Kyostan Simma

H. A. ...

Shirley

Hal Ford

Joe Wilson

Tim Waller

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Am Wayne

Suzanne B. Baines

Cecilia Swales

Doug La Malfa

John Messer

Renny Heck

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Tom Graves

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Buddie Schmidt

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Tom Cotton

John E. DeBee

Bill Han

Mike Ryan

Alan Seal

Y. K. Wilspatt

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Paul P. Roe

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Dat Tilber

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Chuck Flein

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Cathy McHorn-Rodger

Patricia Neenan

Ann

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