

Compliance

Background

Physician group practices must comply with complex requirements and restrictions aimed at protecting federal healthcare programs and patients. MGMA is in constant dialogue with its members, Congress and the relevant agencies to assess the impact the government's actions will have on medical groups. Our goals are to simplify the compliance requirements placed on physician practices, eliminate unreasonable administrative burdens and prevent unnecessary government interference in the delivery of efficient, high-quality patient care.

MGMA position

Understanding the legitimate interest in protecting the integrity of federal healthcare programs and their beneficiaries, Congress and the administration should:

- Balance government interests with the practical implications of ever-increasing fraud and abuse initiatives on the delivery of high-quality, coordinated, patient-focused care.
- Target programs to focus on identified fraud and abuse concerns. Unfocused programs that broadly implicate multiple provider types and programs drive up healthcare costs and disproportionately impact legitimately operating medical group practices forced to comply with burdensome and unnecessary government regulations.
- Strictly oversee all government program auditors. Auditors must be transparent with respect to their identity, their authority and the issues they seek to address. The demands they place on practices must be coordinated and reasonable. The government must exercise strong oversight of its contract auditors and compensate them in a manner that does not create financial incentives that encourage unfair targeting of healthcare providers and increase the potential for contractor abuse.
- Permit physician group practices to engage in legitimate market-based business arrangements that support and enhance their ability to offer a full range of clinical services so they may provide high quality, coordinated, patient-focused care.
- Recognize the shared aim of government, patients and healthcare providers in keeping protected health information safe and secure and balance it with the practical implications of regulations that create undue administrative burdens and interfere with care delivery.
- Identify and eliminate redundant regulatory schemes that impede efficient healthcare delivery. It is the government's duty to affirmatively ensure that all federal agencies seeking to regulate the activities of the healthcare industry implement regulations in a coordinated manner.

MGMA Advocacy

To view specific examples of MGMA's advocacy efforts on matters of compliance, visit www.mgma.com/policy.