

Medicare Regulatory Reform

Background

Physician group practices must successfully understand and navigate the complex and continually evolving U.S. healthcare system, which has a myriad of requirements from federal, state and private payers. MGMA strives to ease the burdens on medical group practices and to prevent unnecessary government interference in the provision of efficient, high-quality patient care. MGMA continually solicits feedback from its members on government regulations and programs and uses that feedback to recommend regulatory reforms that would simplify requirements for group practices.

MGMA position

Recognizing the complexities of our healthcare system and that medical providers should spend time focusing on patients – not paperwork – Congress and the administration should:

- Alleviate administrative burdens placed on physician group practices by identifying and standardizing government requirements. Eliminate duplicative, outdated and unnecessary mandates.
- Balance legitimate government interests and patient needs with the practical implications of implementing new rules and regulations that may interfere with physician practices' delivery of efficient, high-quality care.
- Solicit substantive feedback from practice administrators and other stakeholders prior to proposing or implementing regulatory changes. Ongoing dialogues with practice administrators, who understand the workflow of physician group practices and how a particular change may disrupt patient care or create inefficiency, will help the government develop better policies.
- Recognize the efficiencies of the physician group practice model and allow groups to work on behalf of their physicians to comply with federal mandates. Physicians enter into group practice arrangements to achieve efficiencies, which are better realized when they can focus on providing quality patient care and delegate certain non-clinical responsibilities to administrative professionals in their practice.
- Modernize programs and make them more user-friendly, intuitive and interactive. Interfaces must be adequately tested by stakeholders before widespread implementation to identify potential concerns and prevent systemic issues that decrease efficiency and increase the cost of providing care.
- Focus on adopting efficient electronic capabilities, coordinating programs and updating the systems used to support them.

MGMA Advocacy

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