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Statement of the American College of Surgeons

United States Senate
Committee on Finance

Bolstering Chronic Care through Medicare Physician Payment

April 11, 2024

Stabilizing Medicare Physician Payment

As a starting point to create a more stable foundation for value-based care initiatives, ACS supports building an update into the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, comparable to other Medicare payment programs, to account for the effects of inflation on the cost of providing care to seniors

Congress, at a minimum, should amend 42 USC 1395w-4 (c)(2)(B)(ii) to increase the current $20 million budget neutrality adjustment trigger and index it for inflation going forward

Congress should encourage innovation by incentivizing the testing and implementation of physician-developed, value-based payment models. Models developed by subject matter experts such as specialty societies will be better structured to provide and utilize timely, actionable data and allow physicians to improve care.

Facilitating the Transition Value-based Care

Domain 1: Eliciting Patient Healthcare Goals:

Domain 2: Responsible Medication Management:

Quality has been the cornerstone of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) since its founding more than a century ago. Through the Power of Quality campaign, ACS is on a mission to improve surgical quality and patient care for every patient and in every setting across the country. This includes expanding the reach of ACS Quality Programs to more hospitals, enlisting more surgeons in quality improvement efforts, encouraging adoption of quality metrics into public policy, and expanding patient recognition of the important role these programs play in health care. At the ACS, we believe a strong, united voice for surgery is essential to effective advocacy in service of our patient and surgeon community. With thirteen ACS Quality Programs, the ACS has set the standard for high quality, evidence-based surgical care and is the definitive marking of quality patients should seek.
