

Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Operational Plan
CMS/CIVHC Data Physician Data Reports:
The BOD voted to continue to investigate this pilot: 1-18-19

Why the board is voting on this issue: Within the cost of care and quality section of the current CMS operational plan, there is a strategy that states: “Work with the Center for Improving Value in Health Care (CIVHC) to provide CMS physicians with meaningful and actionable data for cost containment and quality improvement efforts.” The CMS Work Group on Health Care Costs and Quality recently received a proposal by CIVHC to provide valuable, practice-specific, data reports to physicians across the state. While the CMS board sets organizational strategy, it typically is not involved in specific tactics to execute those strategies. The work group and staff believe that this project is sufficiently important in terms of potential impact and costs that it merits a board discussion.

What the board will be voting on: The work group recommends that the CMS board of directors:

- Recognize physician members’ need for customized data to help enhance practice viability, improve quality of care, and drive down health care costs;
- Explore a small-scale CMS/CIVHC partnership to provide 15 physician-member practices with customized data reports to understand average and median payments for top CPT codes for specific specialties by payer and region as compared to the Medicare fee schedule; and
- Carefully evaluate the project to assess report usability and value and priorities for report upgrades including other tools, costs, and business plan options.

Background

CIVHC has approached CMS with a partnership proposal to provide data through a platform tailored to physicians that is intended to:

- Enhance the financial viability of group practices;
- Improve the quality of care;
- Help drive down the cost of care; and
- Assist strategic planning efforts to address the changing landscape of patient care and health care economics.

The vision for this proposal complements ongoing CMS organizational and member benefit transformation efforts, including bringing actionable data to CMS member physicians through their mobile devices. According to a September 2018 CMS membership poll, three-quarters (72%) of physician members would be interested (32% of whom would be very interested and 40% who would be somewhat interested), in a report that would highlight opportunities for practice improvement based on their data from an all-payer quality and cost database.

A phased approach is proposed in order to achieve the vision of this project. The first phase is a pilot project focused on providing targeted physicians with access to CIVHC's CPT dashboard to understand average and median payments for the top CPT codes being billed by payer and region compared to the Medicare fee schedule. If the pilot phase is successful, CMS and CIVHC will develop the partnership plan, tools and timeline in a manner that meets the strategic and financial needs of both entities.