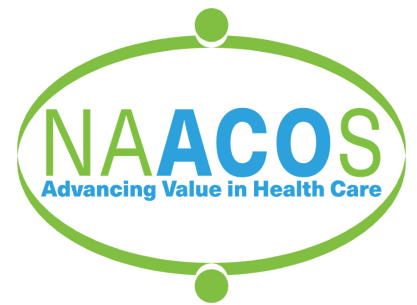


Protect Patient Access to Accountable Care



The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) accelerated the shift from fee-for-service to downside risk Advanced Alternative Payment Models (AAPMs). Recurring physician payment cuts threaten beneficiary access to care and undermine investments in accountable care. Reforms are needed to provide greater payment stability and support long-term investments in care transformation.



AAPMs improve prevention, care coordination, and management of chronic conditions.



Over half of Medicare beneficiaries are now in accountable care arrangements.



AAPM incentives help practices invest in workforce retention, patient support, and population health infrastructure.



Nearly 45% of health care payments are now tied to payment models with downside risk.

Congress must pass an end of year extension of AAPM incentives payments, stabilize qualifying thresholds and stop cuts to Medicare physician payments.

- Medicare's AAPM incentive payments expire at the end of 2026.
- Higher qualifying participant thresholds in 2027 could reduce payment updates and push more clinicians into MIPS.
- Annual physician payment reductions threaten investments in coordinated, accountable care.

Congress must progress long-term payment reforms that stabilize Medicare's payment system and promote adoption of accountable care models.

- The **Patients First Act (H.R. 9693)** takes steps to strengthen physician payment policy and support Medicare's transition to accountable care, by:
 - Establishing a more sustainable physician payment system.
 - Incentivizing participation in risk-based payment models.
 - Increasing investment in primary care.
 - Adjusting APM qualifying thresholds to account for real world performance.
 - Increasing stakeholder engagement with the CMS Innovation Center.
- Additional measures are also needed to sustain AAPM participation, align primary care payments with ACOs, and reduce unnecessary quality reporting requirements.

Contact Aisha Pittman or Robert Daley at advocacy@naacos.com for more information.