Whereas, Risk adjustment models represent the foundation by which health insurance organizations and alternative payment models assess probability of resource utilization among patients; and

Whereas, Risk adjustment methodologies typically utilize a standard population representing a combination of adults and children whereby conditions of childhood may be under-represented and whereby calculated risk adjustment factors may not be reflective of resource utilization across all age groups; and

Whereas, Although the Hierarchal Condition Category models published as CMS-HCC (for Medicare Advantage) and as HHS-HCC (for non-Medicare use) provide structural detail including stratification of infant and child, healthcare organizations may modify HCC models in proprietary ways that are not transparently disclosed to providers; and

Whereas, Childhood-relevant, resource-intensive conditions often represent complex associations of chronic abnormalities (especially behavioral) exacerbated by unfavorable social health determinants all of which may be under-represented in proprietary risk adjustment models; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association support risk modeling that appropriately represents care that is specific to all age groups including infants, children, and adolescents as unique risk strata (New HOD Policy); therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our AMA advocate that health insurance organizations transparently publish their risk adjustment models so that clinicians can more effectively document care that reflects patient risk and so that clinicians can assess whether the risk adjustment model appropriately defines the risk of their patients. (New HOD Policy)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

Received: 04/19/18
References:


RELEVANT AMA POLICY


Hierarchical Condition Category Coding D-160.928 - Our AMA will continue to work with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to refine risk adjustment in all alternative payment models and Medicare Advantage plans, particularly to revise risk-adjustment processes, to allow hierarchical condition category (HCC) codes to automatically follow the beneficiary from year-to-year to reflect chronic conditions that will never change. Res. 112, A-16

Risk Adjustment Refinement in ACO Settings and Medicare Shared Savings Programs D-160.927 - Our AMA will continue seeking the even application of risk-adjustment in ACO settings to allow Hierarchical Condition Category risk scores to increase year-over-year within an agreement period for the continuously assigned Medicare Shared Savings Program beneficiaries and report progress back to this House at the 2017 Annual Meeting. Res. 114, A-16.