Whereas, Reporting data under the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) increases the administrative burden on physicians and takes time away from patient care; and

Whereas, The maximum potential payment penalty under MIPS will incrementally increase to 9%; and

Whereas, Many physician practices that serve Medicare beneficiaries cannot sustain additional reductions in their Medicare payments; and

Whereas, Small and medium-sized physician practices are likely to be disproportionately impacted by penalties under MIPS; and

Whereas, Participation in pay-for-performance programs should not be compulsory; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association advocate to repeal all potential penalties associated with the MIPS program. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

Received: 09/27/18
RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Opposed Replacement of the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System with the Voluntary Value Program D-395.998
1. Our AMA will oppose the replacement of the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) with the Voluntary Value Program (VVP) as currently defined.
2. Our AMA will study the criticisms of the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) program as offered by proponents of the VVP to determine where improvement in the MIPS program needs to be made.
3. Our AMA will continue its advocacy efforts to improve the MIPS program, specifically requesting: (a) true EHR data transparency, as the free flow of information is vital to the development of meaningful outcome measures; (b) safe harbor protections for entities providing clinical data for use in the MIPS program; (c) continued infrastructure support for smaller practices that find participation particularly burdensome; (d) adequate recognition of and adjustments for socioeconomic and demographic factors that contribute to variation in patient outcomes as well as geographic variation; and (e) limiting public reporting of physician performance to those measures used for scoring in the MIPS program.
4. Our AMA will determine if population measures are appropriate and fair for measuring physician performance.
Citation: Res. 247, A-18

Reducing MIPS Reporting Burden D-395.999
Our AMA will work with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to advocate for improvements to Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) that have significant input from practicing physicians and reduce regulatory and paperwork burdens on physicians. In the interim, our AMA will work with CMS to shorten the yearly MIPS data reporting period from one-year to a minimum of 90-days (of the physicians choosing) within the calendar year.
Citation: Res. 236, A-18