

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: _____
(A-25)

Introduced by: Private Practice Physicians Section

Subject: An Assessment of Physician Support for Value-Based Payment Models and its Impact on Healthcare to Inform AMA Advocacy Efforts—A Survey

Referred to: Reference Committee _____
(_____, Chair)

Whereas, value-based payment (VBP)'s impact on care: The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation's VBP models have not only failed to improve quality but have likely led to a decline in the quality of care patients receive⁽¹⁻⁶⁾; and

Whereas, VBP's impact on access: VBP programs such as the Hospital Readmission Reduction Program and the Merit-based Incentive Payment System risk increasing health disparities because they have been shown to disproportionately penalize safety-net hospitals and physicians caring for greater numbers of vulnerable patients⁽⁷⁻⁹⁾; and

Whereas, VBP's impact on physicians: Although there may have been response bias, a survey piloted through the New York County Medical Society in 2023 found most physicians thought VBP models would harm patients (78 percent). Few physicians were supporters of VBP (28 percent). It was particularly concerning that 94 percent of physicians believed VBP models would add to physician burnout. Responses to survey questions were remarkably similar for both employed and private practitioners; and

Whereas, VBP's impact on cost: A Congressional Budget Office review of The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation's programs, created to reign in cost, not only resulted in a more than five billion dollar increase in cost but are projected to increase costs over the next ten years¹⁰; and

Whereas, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation plans to have all Medicare beneficiaries care for by physicians who are accountable for cost and quality of care by 2030; and

Whereas, county and state medical societies and the American Medical Association have been steadily losing members, likely due in part to physicians' lack of faith that these organizations endeavor to understand their needs, value their opinions, and advocate effectively for their interests and the quality of patient care; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association conducts a physician survey of adequate size and scope to ascertain the impact of value-based payment models on a wide spectrum of both employed and independent physician practices, exploring its specific effects on the quality of care physicians provide (i.e., help or harm quality), patient access to care (i.e., limit Medicare patients), physician professionalism (i.e., honoring patient preferences, managing conflict of interest), and adequacy of the physician workforce (i.e., availability of primary care, burnout, early retirement) to provide legislators a better understanding and inform future AMA advocacy efforts (Directive to Take Action).

Fiscal Note: TBD

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RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Advocacy of Private Practice Options for Healthcare Operations in Large Corporations D-160.909

1. Our American Medical Association will inform corporate efforts about the value of private practices to successfully participate in new “value-based” models.
2. Our AMA will identify and work with a corporate entity that is advancing these models to explore a two year pilot among independent private practices in which our AMA will:
 - a. convene physician practices in a community.
 - b. provide educational resources and technical assistance to practices to support their participation with the corporate entity.
 - c. formally evaluate the pilot for outcomes.
3. Our AMA will advocate with commercial payers and health plans and federal and state payers and policymakers to support private practice through policies and models that provide adequate payment, infrastructure and data to succeed in “value-based” models.

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