

CMS proposes a 90-day Meaningful Use period for 2016

On July 6th, CMS issued a proposed 90-day Meaningful Use reporting period for the calendar year 2016 for all eligible health care professionals. CMS states, "the EHR reporting period would be any continuous 90-day period between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016". If the proposal goes through, all eligible professionals, regardless of their previous reporting experience, could meet the 90-day minimum. For those providers who have already been reporting, this could help lessen their administrative burden and allow them to shift office staff responsibilities elsewhere. This proposal would also help those EPs who are late to the game or who are unable to meet the full year reporting requirement for 2016. Those EPs with these circumstances will now have the opportunity to increase their reporting activity. The final ruling is expected in the fall.

The Senate takes a closer look at MACRA implementation

The Senate Committee on Finance recently held a hearing to explore CMS' MACRA implementation efforts. Senators asked questions regarding the proposed rule on Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and alternative payment models (APMs). Of great concern was the proposed start date of January 1, 2017 and whether physicians and group practices would have sufficient time to prepare for the implementation of the new programs once the proposal is finalized. CMS Acting Administrator, Andy Slavitt, responded by saying this is a "legitimate concern" and that different recommendations to include an alternative start date are being reviewed. Among other recommendations to different parts of MACRA that include alternatives to the proposed performance period, MGMA is recommending CMS push the implementation date to January 2018 to allow for physician or practice readiness. Providers can get more in-depth information about MACRA Quality Payment Program at cms.gov.

Questions? Call Angie at 915-774-5506

1. MGMA, Week of July 13, 2016, *MGMA Washington Connection*
2. CMS.gov
3. *Part B News*, July 11, 2016, Volume 30, Issue 27

