



PRACTICE REVENUE OPTIMIZATION
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Did You Know?

Frankincense might not just reduce inflammation, it may also directly attack cancer cells, according to 2009 and 2015 studies of bladder and breast cancers.

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CMS Releases Possible Medicare Reporting Measures

CMS recently published a list of nearly 100 reporting measures under consideration for Medicare's quality and value-based purchasing programs. The list includes new quality and efficiency measures for nursing homes, hospitals, clinician practices and dialysis facilities, and the measures focus on patient outcomes, appropriate use of diagnostics and services, cost and patient safety, Kate Goodrich, director of the Center for Clinical Standards and Quality at the CMS, said in a blog post. CMS publishes a list each year of quality and cost measures that are under consideration for Medicare quality and value-based purchasing programs and works with the National Quality Forum to get input from patients, clinicians, commercial payers and purchasers, on the most suitable measures. For this year, 39% of the measures being considered will focus on outcomes, and specialty societies also submitted more measures than in the previous years, said Goodrich. The measures, if adopted, will ultimately help patients choose the provider that is the best for them, while helping providers deliver quality care.

CMS Launches Online Tool To Assist In MACRA Compliance

CMS recently released an online tool for clinicians to identify which new Medicare payment models best suit them and their practices. This new tool is an application program interface, or API, that will allow physicians and their practices to build software that enables sharing of quality measure data for the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act. The application has been used by "tens of thousands" of users so far, according to CMS.

In October, the agency released the quality payment program website that helps providers understand how to adhere to MACRA and find the best ways for them to participate. Under the Merit-based Incentive Payment System, which was mandated under MACRA, physician payments will be based on a compilation of quality measures and the use of electronic health records. Physicians could also meet MACRA requirements by participating in an alternative payment model like an accountable care organization.

"An important part of the quality payment program is to make it easier and less expensive to participate, so clinicians may focus on seeing patients," said Andy Slavitt, acting administrator of the CMS. "This first release is a step in that process, both for physicians and the technologists who support them."