

# The National Commission on PHYSICIAN PAYMENT REFORM

## Seeking Cost-Conscious Changes to Improve Patient Care by Assessing How Physicians are Paid

### WHO ARE WE?

The National Commission on Physician Payment Reform was created by the Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM) to assess how physicians are paid, and how pay incentives are linked to patient care. The independent commission includes physicians from a wide range of medical specialties, representatives from health care, insurance, a state health department, health policy leaders and a consumer representative. (See right for list of commissioners.)

### WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

There is an escalating need to curtail skyrocketing health care costs in the U.S. Without major changes to the current system, the nation is on track to spend \$4.5 trillion on health care by 2019. Contributing drivers include:

- The current fee-for-service system which rewards doctors for quantity not quality. Physicians are paid more to perform more procedures and order more tests, instead of better overall care.
- The lack of care coordination among providers. This results in duplication of services and tests, overtreatment, errors, and excessive administrative costs.
- An increasing number of patients accessing the health care system more often. They are older, have more chronic diseases, and often have more complex health problems.
- Physicians and patients continue to utilize high tech interventions that may or may not be necessary.

*Without major changes, the nation is on track to spend \$4.5 trillion on health care by 2019.*

### WHAT WILL WE DO?

The Commission will issue an analysis and recommendations on how to reform the physician payment system in an effort to rein in health care costs while at the same time optimizing outcomes for patients. The Commission expects to issue a full report in early 2013.

How physicians are paid is a major driver of health care costs. The Commission will assess payment and delivery models in place, efforts to incorporate quality into the current pay system, and the opportunities and risks of the coming payment configurations in the Affordable Care Act, including:

- Accountable care organizations (ACO's)
- Patient-centered medical homes
- Value-based purchasing

### HONORARY CHAIR

#### William "Bill" Frist, M.D.

Heart transplant surgeon; former Senate Majority Leader

### CHAIR

#### Steven Schroeder, M.D., M.A.C.P.

Distinguished Professor of Health and Health Care, Division of General Internal Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco

### COMMISSIONERS

#### JudyAnn Bigby, M.D.

Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

#### Troyen A. Brennan, M.D., F.A.C.P.

Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, CVS Caremark

#### Suzanne Delbanco, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Catalyst for Payment Reform

#### Thomas Gallagher, M.D., F.A.C.P.

General internist and Associate Professor, Department of Medicine and the Department of Bioethics and Humanities, University of Washington

#### Jerry Kennett, M.D.

Senior Partner, Missouri Cardiovascular Specialists; Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Boone Hospital Center

#### Richard Kravitz, M.D., M.S.P.H.

Professor and Co-vice Chair for Research, Department of Internal Medicine, University of California, Davis

#### Lisa Latts, M.D., M.S.P.H., M.B.A., F.A.C.P.

Vice President for Public Health Policy, WellPoint, Inc.

#### Kavita Patel, M.D.

Economic Studies Fellow and Managing Director for Clinical Transformation and Delivery, Engelberg Center for Health Care Reform, Brookings Institution

#### Meredith Rosenthal, Ph.D.

Professor, Health Economics and Policy, Harvard School of Public Health

#### Michael Wagner, M.D., F.A.C.P.

Chief Medical Officer, Tufts Medical Center

#### Steven Weinberger, M.D., F.A.C.P.

Adjunct Professor of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania; Executive Vice President and CEO, American College of Physicians (ACP)

#### Amy Whitcomb Slemmer, Esq.

Executive Director, Health Care For All

**SGIM**

Society of General Internal Medicine