

# Federal Affairs Update

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# AMERICA'S PHYSICIAN GROUPS

## Taking Responsibility for America's Health

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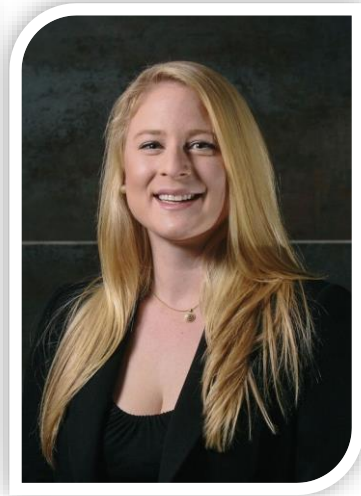
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### **Valinda Rutledge**

Prior to serving as Vice President of Federal Affairs for APG, Valinda Rutledge worked as a Senior Advisor and Group Director for the Patient Care Models Group within the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI).

### **Margaret Peterson**

Margaret Peterson is the Director of Federal Affairs at APG. Previously, Margaret served on the health policy team for Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA), focusing on ACA reform and MACRA implementation.



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# Agenda



CONGRESSIONAL  
UPDATE



ADMINISTRATION  
UPDATE



APG ADVOCACY

AMERICA'S  
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GROUPS

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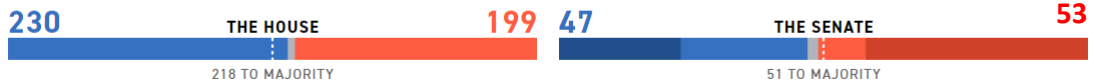


116<sup>th</sup> Congress

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**DEMOCRATS WIN  
THE HOUSE ✓**

**REPUBLICANS WIN  
THE SENATE ✓**



# Midterm Election Results

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## What does it mean?



**Oversight, Oversight, Oversight**  
Both on President Trump himself but also his agencies including HHS, CMS, and CMMI



**Divided government**  
Little action on big ticket items



**What issues may the Dems work with Trump?**  
Drug pricing, preexisting condition protections or surprise billing

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# Health Care Leadership in the House



**Nancy Pelosi**  
Speaker of the House



**Kevin McCarthy**  
Minority Leader

## Energy and Commerce



**CHAIR: Frank Pallone**  
(D-NJ)



**Greg Walden**  
(R-OR)

## Ways and Means



**CHAIR: Richard Neal**  
(D-MA)



**Kevin Brady**  
(R-TX)



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# Health Care Leadership in the Senate



**Mitch McConnell**  
Majority Leader



**Chuck Schumer**  
Minority Leader

## Finance



**CHAIR: Chuck Grassley**  
(R-IA)



**Ron Wyden**  
(D-OR)

## Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP)



**CHAIR: Lamar Alexander**  
(R-TN)



**Patty Murray**  
(D-WA)



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## Health Care Innovation Caucus

- Co-chairs and founding members: Mike Kelly (R-PA), Ron Kind (D-WI), Markwayne Mullin (R-OK), and Ami Bera, M.D. (D-CA)
- Main focus: *“advance a legislative agenda that encourages innovative policy ideas to improve the quality of care and lower costs for consumers”*

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## The Trump Administration

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## HHS Secretary

Secretary Alex Azar assumed office January 29, 2018

Four areas of focus to transform healthcare:

- Patients as Consumers
- Providers as Accountable Patient Navigators
- Payment for outcomes
- Prevention of disease before it occurs

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## CMMI Director

Adam Boehler appointed CMMI Director and Senior Adviser to HHS's Value-Based Transformation and Innovation

- Forthcoming CMMI models:
  - **CPC+**: a new track in an existing program meant to strengthen primary care for patients
  - **Direct Contracting**: developing a network of preferred providers and expanding the use of direct contracts between payers and health care providers
  - **Mandatory Bundles**: radiation therapy and other disease states
  - **Chronic Kidney Disease**: move upstream in ESRD

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## Medicare Physician Fee Schedule and Quality Program Plan Final Rule



THE MPFS [FINAL RULE](#) WAS RELEASED ON NOV 1, 2018. OVER 15,317 COMMENT LETTERS WERE SUBMITTED.



DELAYED PROPOSED E/M CHANGES TO 2021 (APG'S TOP-LINE [SUMMARY](#))



IMPACT OF THE PATIENTS OVER PAPERWORK INITIATIVE WITHIN RULE AND OTHER DOCUMENTATION CHANGES



VIRTUAL HEALTH AND COMMUNICATION BASED TECHNOLOGY UPDATE



QPP YEAR 3 WITH MINIMAL CHANGES

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## Pathways to Success ( MSSP ACO) Final Rule



HIGHER SHARING RATES IN THE BASIC TRACK



INCREASED THRESHOLD PERCENTAGE FOR DEFINITION OF LOW/HIGH REVENUE ACOS



MORE FLEXIBILITY FOR LOW REVENUE ACOS AND TRACK 1 PLUS



REPAYMENT MECHANISM HAS BEEN LESSENED

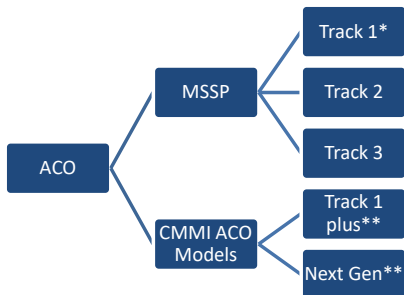


UPDATED BENCHMARKING METHODOLOGY

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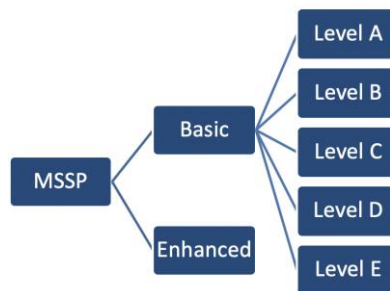
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## Former ACO Options



MSSP Contract terms are 3 years  
 • No downside risk, can renew for total of 6 years  
 \*\* Sunsets in 2020

## Pathways to Success Options



Contract terms are 5 years except for the July 1, 2019 start dates

## Rules to Come



STARK RULE



2020 PROPOSED PAYMENT  
RULES (IPPS, QPP, MPFS, OPPD)

IPPS- Inpatient Prospective  
 QPP- Quality Program Plan  
 MPFS- Medicare Physician Fee schedule  
 OPPD- Outpatient Prospective



# Wildcards



Texas vs Azar



Debt Ceiling



Medicare For All



APG Advocacy

# 2019 Advocacy Priorities



LAUNCH OF THE THIRD OPTION



STRENGTHEN AND PROTECT  
MACRA



IMPROVE VALUE IN MA

# MA Physician Sign-on Letter



PHYSICIAN-LEAD COALITION  
EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR  
MA



ANNUAL TRADITION – LAST  
YEAR'S LETTER HAD 340  
SIGNEES



ACCESS A COPY OF THE  
LETTER [HERE](#). SIGN UP YOUR  
GROUP [HERE](#)

# Resources



Deep Dive webinars on proposed and final rules



Webinar Wednesdays, second Wednesday of each month on emerging new trends



Slides and recordings are available at [APG.org](http://APG.org)



Committees and Risk Evolution Task Force

APG  
Advocates



**Invitations**  
to exclusive politically focused events



**Subscriptions**  
to publications, including the *Monthly Dose*



**Access**  
to advocacy materials

# Questions?



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## Save the Date

# ANNUAL Conference 2019

Quality and Efficiency: How to Succeed in Risk-Based Models

April 11-13, 2019 | Manchester Grand Hyatt, San Diego, CA

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