



On June 18th, ACP President, Joseph W. Stubbs, MD, FACP joined with physician leaders from the American Academy of Family Physicians and the American Osteopathic Association in meetings with congressional leadership to express the need for primary care reform. At their meetings, Dr. Stubbs, AAFP President, Ted Epperly, MD, and AOA President-elect, Larry Wickless, DO emphasized that **as they move forward with crafting health care reform legislation Congress needs to include reforms that:**

- **invest in training more primary care doctors;**
- **implement new payment models to support patient-centered primary care; and**
- **reform and enhance Medicare payments to recruit more physicians into primary care and support those already in practice.**

The doctors also presented a five-part plan to reform physician payments that would bring about the suggested reforms.

1. Provide a substantial increase in Medicare payments to primary care physicians, beginning in 2010. Such an increase should be large enough to send a powerful signal to medical students and established physicians that Congress is serious about making primary care a more attractive career option, and to recognize the demonstrated value of primary care in improving outcomes and lowering costs. This initial increase should become a permanent part of the Medicare payment structure.
2. Eliminate the Medicare sustainable growth rate formula and replace it with a system that provides predictable and stable updates to all physicians with positive and higher updates for services provided by primary care physicians. The accumulated SGR deficit should be eliminated and reflected in the Medicare baseline.
3. Improve the accuracy of relative values for services paid under the Medicare physician fee schedule.
4. Expand the Patient-Centered Medical Home nationwide, supported by a new payment system that reimburses qualified PCMHs for the value of prevention and care coordination.
5. Pilot test other new payment models to align incentives with the value of services provided by primary care physicians.

For more on ACP's positions on health care reform visit:

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