



Monterey Bay Independent Physician Association



## Minute Update

### LEARN TO SURF?

*When a wave of change is approaching, you can hold up your hands and try to hold it back... or you can learn to surf!* - Hugh Greeley

There is no question that many waves of change have rolled through our professional lives in recent years, and they definitely keep approaching. Unfortunately, none of us locally has the capability of changing the waves, but collectively we most certainly can learn to surf. The Monterey Bay IPA can be a facilitator and catalyst for that education, and for the complex transition from volume-based to value-based reimbursement.

For example, did you know?

- CMS has recently rewarded two practices in our community based on their Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) data, such that these practices will receive a **16% increase in their Medicare fee schedule in 2016!**
- Starting next year, all Medicare providers will be required to compile and submit data to participate in the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS). Using this data, in the years 2019 through 2022, providers will receive a score of 0-100. A score of 50 results in no reward or penalty. A score of 100 can mean up to a maximum 27% “bonus” (in year four). A score of zero will trigger a *penalty* of up to 9%. (By the way, if you don’t submit... your score will be “zero”.) A real pain in the ...? *Yes. Avoidable? Maybe...*
- An alternative to the MIPS (“Alternative Payment Method”) is to have a percentage of your Medicare patients (currently 25%, but lobbying is being done to reduce) in value-based health systems (again, lobbying is being done to include Medicare Advantage). If your practice meets the numbers, you will NOT have to do the MIPS data collection and submission above, and will automatically get a 5% “bonus”. Not too much Medicare in your practice? Don’t relax. There is every expectation that the commercial payors will follow suit in some fashion.
- NCQA (*National Committee for Quality Assurance*) publishes HEDIS (*Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set*) measures that **are currently being monitored** for all patients and providers by all payors. (*Wanna know what percentage of your Anthem patients have received an antibiotic for acute bronchitis? Gimme a call.*) The MBIPA has an agreement with the CHOMP employee health plan to earn up to \$1 million in 2016 for our performance, including on some HEDIS measures.

The MBIPA can help you navigate these issues, while offering a platform to meet ever-evolving metrics and, ultimately, to assist all of us in providing care in the best interest of our patients and community.

-- Jim

**Next Minute Update:** *Community Collaboration.*

**Attached:** *Paper copy of a joint Update from the MBIPA and Aspire Health Plan that was emailed to you last week.*