

Creating Specialty Advanced Alternative Payment Models (APMs) for Urologists

The implementation of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) Quality Payment Program by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) continues the federal government's transition from fee-for-service reimbursement models to a focus on value-based care.

Under MACRA, physicians can choose between two payment tracks:

Advanced Alternative Payment Models (APMs): An Alternative Payment Model (APM) is a payment arrangement, developed with the physician community, that provides added incentives for clinicians to provide high-quality and cost-efficient care. Advanced APMs are a subset of APMs and enable practices to earn greater rewards for taking on risk related to patient outcomes and cost of care. Physicians who participate to a sufficient degree in Advanced APMs are excluded from MIPS and earn a 5 percent lump sum incentive payment based on their Part B professional services for a given year.

Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS): MIPS is effectively the new default payment system for Part B. It combines the existing Medicare Meaningful Use (MU), Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) and Value-Based Modifier (VBM) programs into MIPS. Clinicians are exempt from MIPS only after meeting several conditions.

For LUGPA member practices to benefit from an APM, providers need integrated clinical and financial systems that can monitor treatment pathway adherence, quality metrics, practice costs and patient outcomes. This is why LUGPA is working to develop the first **urology-specific** Advanced APMs.

Two APMs will be created with LUGPA practice involvement:

1. **Positive Biopsy/Localized Prostate Cancer**
2. **Prostate Cancer Biopsy Taking Risk on Sepsis**

Who will benefit from these APMs?



Providers will benefit from increased reimbursement as part of MACRA



Payors will benefit from the transition from volume- to value-based care



Patients will benefit from improved care quality

LUGPA's APM development is bolstered by Integra Connect's Quality Initiative Program, which gathers data and insights to inform best practices and quality measures.



PHASE 1

Actuarial analysis of retrospective and prospective data gathered during the Quality Initiative to identify possible APM



PHASE 2

Development of economic models to understand potential savings



PHASE 3

Legal process of submission to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation and commercial payers



PHASE 4

Following APM approval, Integra Connect will help to inform physicians of the model

Urologists need APMs developed and validated by urologists – not imposed upon them – to bolster independent practices and enhance value-based care for patients. As the leader of urology-specific APM development, LUGPA encourages all member practices to stay-tuned for more information on the development of these APMs.



LUGPA
Integrated Practices
Comprehensive Care

LUGPA is a trade Association that represents independent urology group practices in the U.S., with more than 2,200 physicians who make up more than 25 percent of the nation's practicing urologists, and provide more than 30 percent of the total urologic care in the U.S. The association is committed to providing the best resources and information for its member practices through advocacy, research, data collection and benchmarking efforts. LUGPA advocates for independent urology practices by promoting quality clinical outcomes, fostering new opportunities and improving advocacy in the legislative and regulatory arenas. For more information, visit lugpa.org.