



Dear MAG Member:

This is the year of transition.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) estimates that approximately 712,000 physicians may be affected by the Quality Payment Program (QPP) changes in the first performance year of 2017. Although clinician payment will not be impacted by the QPP until January 1, 2019, CMS plans to use 2017 as the performance year for determining clinician payment adjustments in 2019. Is your practice ready for QPP?

The Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) is collaborating with the Georgia Hospital Association Research and Education Foundation (GHAREF) to recruit Georgia physicians and clinicians to participate in the Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative (TCPI). TCPI helps practices prepare for the performance based payment system through the Compass Practice Transformation Network (PTN).

"As a solo ophthalmologist in Cherokee County, I find the Compass PTN network and the Georgia Hospital Association's quality improvement advisors to be most helpful in guiding me through the tangled bureaucratic requirements for successfully participating in the Merit-Incentive Based Payment System (MIPS) and Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization 2015 (MACRA). I feel comfortable that they have placed me on the right path for success and would highly recommend them to any of my MAG colleagues," stated William Marks, MD of the Etowah Eye Clinic in Canton.

In 2016, MAG and GHAREF worked together to recruit physicians to enroll in the Compass Practice Transformation Network through TCPI. Over 1,000 physicians have made significant strides in preparing for the Quality Payment Program. Physicians enrolled in the Compass PTN have set aims to prepare for the value-based payment model. Today, they are not only reporting data but also using it to drive change. Physicians are now on track for being prepared for the merit-based incentive payment system.

"With more than 7,800 member physicians in every specialty and practice setting, the Medical Association of Georgia has endorsed the Compass PTN as a result of its multi-year collaboration with the Georgia Hospital Association on issues that are related to quality, safety, and community health," explains MAG President Steven Walsh, M.D. "MAG is convinced that the Compass PTN will give physicians in Georgia the best chance to develop successful and sustainable practice models."

GHAREF quality improvement advisors are assisting physicians in choosing their pace of participation during the 2017 Quality Payment Program transition year. Physicians who take these steps now can ease the transition of their practice and position themselves to earn financial rewards for the provided high-value care.

The Compass PTN is one of 29 Practice Transformation Networks (PTN) that are funded by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to provide hands-on quality improvement support and peer-based learning networks to clinicians to improve care delivery and prepare for successful performance in the value-based health care environment. For more information, please visit www.ihconline.org/compassptn or contact Joyce Reid at jreid@gha.org or 770-249-4545.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald J. Palmisano Jr.".

Donald J. Palmisano Jr.
Executive Director & CEO
Medical Association of Georgia

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Earl V. Rogers".

Earl V. Rogers
President and Chief Executive Officer
Georgia Hospital Association

The Compass Practice Transformation Network is supported by Funding Opportunity Number CMS-11I-15-003 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The contents of this publication are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services or any of its agencies.