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To whom it may concern:

On behalf of Synergy IPA in Nashville TN, I am writing in response to the proposals in the Medicare Advantage (MA) Advance Notice and Call Letter of 2019. I wanted to take the opportunity to emphasize my appreciation of the steps taken to further strengthen the Medicare Advantage industry. My group and I have opposed positions in the past so I felt obliged to write in support of the overall nature of this recent announcement. The reason is the core value for my MA patients. I strongly believe that MA helps advance their quality of life and actually helps me better manage my entire “Senior” patient population.

The preventive and proactive measures we put in place for quality and value with our MA plan have shaped the way we improved the management of all our patients. The clinical support and chronic care programs engineered and supported by Cigna-HealthSpring are valuable assets to our successful management of care for our seniors. The more successful we are with providing good care and saving healthcare dollars the richer the benefits to our patients in the future with such benefits as dental and vision care as well as gym benefits.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to connect the dots with respect to what I believe are the goals of CMS. My MA experience has formed my group’s transition from a fee for service practice to a practice that focuses on value and quality. I will not go into the details, but the relationship I have with Cigna-HealthSpring has driven the transition of this practice toward population management and coordination of care within what you know is a system that is still driven by fee for service. So again, thank you for what I am seeing as a support of this very important option for my patients and for an industry that is helping drive the transition in the industry toward what we all hope is a more sustainable model.

Sincerely,

James D. Jones MD

Synergy IPA