

May 30, 2014

To: Clif Gaus

From: David Introcaso

Re: NAACOs Weekly Policy Note

Clif, here's the draft text. Please certainly edit however you think best. Thank you.

With this email NAACOs staff will begin forwarding a weekly ACO policy update. This week we call attention to three issues.

### **Anticipated CMS ACO Proposed Rule**

NAACOs has learned CMS has completed its draft of proposed rule changes to the ACO program. Presently the rule is being reviewed by the White House Office of Management and Budget. The publication of the proposed rule is anticipated this summer.

Since the American Medical Association, the American Medical Group Association, Premier and others share with NAACOs similar concerns about how best to improve the ACO program, we have been meeting through this past month with these organizations in an effort to coordinate a response once the proposed rule is published. Our belief is a coordinated response will have greater impact or influence. We should note also we are also working through a series of related meetings with Congressional member, germane committee and White House staff.

### **Recent CMS ACO Data and Program Reporting Enhancements**

In CMMI's May 2014 "ACO Spotlight" (Issue 20) newsletter, CMS announced program report and CCLF enhancements that CMS will begin to implement with the 2014 Quarter 1 reports. These changes can be found at: . . . ???

Again, NAACOs January 2014 white paper to CMS recommending ACO data improvements is at: <https://www.naacos.com/pdf/NAACOSDataTaskForceJanuary2014.pdf>.

### **Alliance for Connected Care**

On May 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, the Alliance for Connected Care, an organization created by former Senators Breaux, Daschle and Lott to lobby to improve Medicare coverage of tele-health services, held House and Senate Hill briefings where Michigan Professor Rashid Bashshur presented a literature review of studies that measured quality improvement and cost savings associated with the use of tele-health services for CHF, COPD and stroke patients. (His conclusion was in part the majority of studies showed tele-monitoring for these three chronic diseases lowered hospital admissions and re-admissions, lengths of stay and ED visits.) It is anticipated tele-health legislation will be re-visited late this year or early next year in context of another SGR/Doc. fix. NAACOs is a member of the Alliance. For more information, the Alliance website is at: <http://www.connectwithcare.org/>.