

## The Physicians Foundation ACA “Headline Watch List” for Physicians in 2013

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, or the ACA, is making sweeping changes to the U.S. health care system, spanning private health insurance markets, public programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, and numerous areas of patient care in an array of settings. Since the law’s inception, The Physicians Foundation has been following closely and reporting on the legislative, regulatory and legal challenges shaping the law’s implementation. The Foundation’s focus is on assisting physicians in private practice in understanding and adapting to the regulatory, clinical, organizational, and financial impact of the ACA as implementation proceeds.

Following is a “Headline Watch List” for 2013 for physicians that range from direct practice impact issues to broader federal policy issues that merit attention for the future. Most, but not all, fall under the jurisdiction of the federal Department of Health and Human Services, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Details on these and other topics are available on our website at <http://thephysiciansfoundation.org>.

### **Direct Medical Practice Impact (selected)**

1. Medicare Value-Based Payments and the Physician Feedback Program being implemented now through 2015.
2. New patient care delivery and physician payment models such as the medical home concept and accountable care organizations (ACOs).
3. Expanding adoption of quality care measures and health information technology, including incentives for the adoption of electronic health records.
4. Provider reporting requirements and profiling for public information and evaluation purposes.
5. New care innovation model funding of up to one billion dollars announced by HHS on May 15 for models that rapidly reduce entitlement program costs, improve care for special needs populations, improve the health of populations and, notably, that test approaches for specific types of providers to transform their financial and clinical models.
6. **Congressional Watch:** Enactment of legislation modifying health care spending levels, or the Medicare physician payment system, the ACA’s Independent Payment Advisory Board or other notable sections of our health care laws.

### **ACA Broader Implementation**

1. State-level actions on Medicaid program expansion effective in 2014 and beyond
2. Federal and/or state models for implementation of health insurance exchanges effective in 2014, including small business rules for the provision of health insurance under the ACA mandate.