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**SUPPORT FOR FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT
OF MULTI-SPECIALTY MEDICAL GROUPS AND
ORGANIZED SYSTEMS OF CARE
2008 ISSUE BRIEF**

Guiding Principle

Integrated delivery systems of health care are the most effective and efficient vehicle to provide the highest quality of medical services to Americans. The strongest underpinning of truly integrated delivery systems is the multi-specialty medical group or other organized system of care. As such, it should be a significant national health care policy to stimulate formation, foster growth, and support development of organized systems of care.

Multi-Specialty Organized Systems of Care: Definition

An organization which provides a coordinated continuum of health care services and is willing to be held clinically accountable for the health status of the community served which subscribes to the core values and demonstrates attributes enumerated:

Core Values of Organized Systems of Care

- Quality—continuous striving to improve patient care through measuring, reporting, and application of findings using evidence-based clinical and service quality measures and tools such as benchmarking, best practices, and peer review
- Patient centered care—timely information sharing by patients and physicians allowing patients to become active participants in their own care to receive services for their individual needs and considering their preferences
- Care coordination—supporting collaboration and communication among medical specialties and non-physician care givers
- Accountability—shared physician responsibility and accountability for patient care
- Innovation—openness to adoption and adaptation of evolving health care delivery models, and a modern infrastructure (electronic medical records, patient registries, electronic prescribing, secure electronic communication with patients, and electronic claims submission. etc.)
- Physician self governance—support of professionalism, physician participation in group governance and independence of clinical decision-making
- Leadership development—creating a practice environment supportive of and seeking to enhance skills, knowledge and experience of physicians' management and executive abilities

Attributes

- The organization is a multi-specialty group medical practice or other organized system of care
- The organization has a stable governance structure
- The organization has a stable financial structure
- The organization has a centralized administration
- The organization possesses a quality driven mission statement

Advocacy Objectives

- Promote Coordinated and Chronic Care Model
- Assure recognition of multi-specialty groups and other organized care systems in P4P
 - Work to allow direct data submission obviating the administrative burden and cost of using G-codes
- Support SGR fix
- Support payment differentials for entities that provide “desired activities”
- Support Universal Access to Health Insurance
- Support for HIT
 - Advocate for Federal funding and incentives to support HIT
 - Assure by differential reimbursements, both “catch up” for small practices and “repayment” for leaders already invested
 - Infrastructure to support patient safety, reduce medication errors, cut costs, improve communications
 - EMR
 - E-prescribing
 - Patient registries
 - Secure electronic communications
 - Interoperability
- Develop support for tax breaks, subsidies/incentives, and other legislative and regulatory means to foster creation, growth, and development of multi-specialty medical groups and other organized systems of care
- Assure equitable reimbursement for Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASCs)
- Stop any future imaging cuts
- Passage of PMLT