



June 15, 2015

Submitted electronically

Acting Administrator Andy Slavitt
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF KEY PATIENT-ENGAGEMENT CRITERIA IN STAGES 1 AND 2 OF THE MEDICARE AND MEDICAID ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD INCENTIVE PROGRAMS, FILE NO. CMS-3311-P

Dear Acting Administrator Slavitt,

When the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services proposed a significant retreat in key patient-engagement provisions of the Meaningful Use EHR Incentive Program on April 10, the National Partnership for Women & Families informed people across the United States of the proposed amendments. Over 5,000 people, from every state and territory, sent letters urging CMS *not* to reverse these requirements. They sent these letters to President Obama, Secretary Burwell, National Coordinator DeSalvo and Administrator Slavitt. We attach and submit each of their 5,000 comments for the record, collected together in eleven large files.

In summary, people across America shared their deep disapproval of CMS's proposal to reverse the requirements that five percent of patients access their health information online and send a secure email message to their providers. They shared their dismay that CMS proposes instead merely to require doctors and hospitals to show that *just one patient* used online access to their health information, and that secure messaging was *merely turned on*, not whether any patient actually used it. "That is a ridiculously low bar to set," they stated, and they each urged CMS to reverse these proposed changes and get back on track. They understood that a minimum standard of five percent signals a genuine expectation for patient engagement and partnership with providers that true delivery system reform requires—and that a retreat to just one patient, and merely turning a function on, does not suffice.

Attached please find these individual comments of over 5,000 people urging that CMS not adopt these proposed reversals in key patient-engagement provisions. If you have any questions about these comments, please contact us at (202) 986-2600 or MSavage@nationalpartnership.org.

Sincerely,



Mark Savage
Director, Health IT Policy and Programs
National Partnership for Women & Families

cc: The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell
Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Dr. Karen DeSalvo, M.D., M.P.H., M.Sc.
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

attachments:

1. Public Comments 1-499 opposing Stage 2 Modification NPRM Patient Engagement Provisions
2. Public Comments 500-999 opposing Stage 2 Modification NPRM Patient Engagement Provisions
3. Public Comments 1,000-1,499 opposing Stage 2 Modification NPRM Patient Engagement Provisions
4. Public Comments 1,500-1,999 opposing Stage 2 Modification NPRM Patient Engagement Provisions
5. Public Comments 2,000-2,499 opposing Stage 2 Modification NPRM Patient Engagement Provisions
6. Public Comments 2,500-2,999 opposing Stage 2 Modification NPRM Patient Engagement Provisions
7. Public Comments 3,000-3,499 opposing Stage 2 Modification NPRM Patient Engagement Provisions
8. Public Comments 3,500-3,999 opposing Stage 2 Modification NPRM Patient Engagement Provisions
9. Public Comments 4,000-4,499 opposing Stage 2 Modification NPRM Patient Engagement Provisions
10. Public Comments 4,500-4,999 opposing Stage 2 Modification NPRM Patient Engagement Provisions
11. Public Comments 5,000-5,181 opposing Stage 2 Modification NPRM Patient Engagement Provisions