

December 8, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, Leader McCarthy and Leader McConnell:

The American Association of Hip & Knee Surgeons (AAHKS) urges you to extend the 5 percent Medicare Alternative Payment Model (APM) incentive payments which are expiring at the end of 2022. APMs are improving care to patients while saving money for the Medicare Trust Funds, and this incentive under the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) is critical for achieving the goal of expanding value-based care.

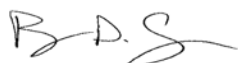
Hip and knee surgeons have led the charge to develop and participate in innovative value-based care. AAHKS members maintain the highest rate of participation in Medicare APMs of any subspecialty. Advances in patient care and pre-surgical optimization have dramatically improved outcomes and shortened patient recovery time. Particularly in cases when APMs are physician-led, our surgeons have saved Medicare hundreds of millions each year.

It is critical that Congress understands that the surgeon driving the value to the Medicare beneficiary, accounts for less than 10% of the total cost of a knee replacement. That means the 5% APM participation bonus is a deeply discounted tool to drive fundamental improvements in care and downstream savings for a fraction-of-a-percent of the total cost of care.

Innovation has come with a tremendous amount of investment and risk on the part of our 4,700 members. Because of a disconnect between legacy Medicare systems and new APMs, our traditional reimbursement was reduced despite our doctors doing more work. Losing this 5% incentive on top of that would cause further harm to our members for leading in value-based care, and be problematic for future APM participation for all physicians.

Thank you for your work addressing the multiple year-end cuts to physicians. We hope that you will prioritize maintaining this critical support for innovation and better care for Medicare beneficiaries and the medical professionals who serve them.

Sincerely,



Bryan D. Springer, MD, President  
American Association of Hip & Knee Surgeons