

Statement from America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) President and CEO Karen Ignagni on the final Medical Loss Ratio (MLR) rule released today by HHS:

"HHS has conducted a thorough and balanced process in crafting this final regulation. Today's announcement takes important steps to make the regulation more workable. The regulation also ensures that some of the costs associated with modernizing the medical claims coding system are appropriately recognized as activities that improve health care quality. We believe health plans' programs to prevent and combat health care fraud should be given similar consideration and that additional steps should be taken to ensure that consumers and small employers do not lose access to the guidance of a trusted health benefits advisor between now and 2014. We will continue to work with the Department on these important issues."