

Pacific Business Group on Health Statement

The Pacific Business Group on Health (PBGH) applauds the House Energy and Commerce Committee Health Subcommittee for taking an important, bipartisan first step today toward paying physicians based on the value instead of volume of the care they deliver. Repealing the Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) and transitioning to a payment system that bases physician payment on quality of care will help ensure the nation gets greater value for every health care dollar.

There are ways to further improve the payment system that Congress should consider as this work continues. For example, it is important that we evaluate doctors on what matters most to patients – whether they are getting appropriate treatments, good outcomes, and the best possible experience with their doctors. After a patient has a knee replacement, is her pain reduced? Can she walk normally? Can she return to work?

As we determine these quality metrics, the public—those who use and pay for physician services—should be the primary voice.

Finally, we applaud the committee’s decision to put Medicare claims data in the hands of more providers, consumers, and researchers for quality improvement programs and transparency. This is a powerful new tool for improving care.

Under this legislation, a value-based payment system would not take effect until 2019. We can and should move quicker to make this transition.