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AARP Applauds Medicare for Exploring Innovative New Ways to Deliver Health Care

Accountable care organizations could deliver higher quality care at a lower cost

WASHINGTON—AARP Legislative Policy Director David Certner released a statement following today's announcement that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has launched three new care coordination initiatives designed to deliver higher quality care through accountable care organizations (ACOs). By providing opportunities within the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, CMS can provide a faster path to ACOs for physicians, hospitals and other providers that are already coordinating care for their patients. Certner's statement follows:

“Improving the quality and lowering the cost of health care will require changing the way we deliver care to patients. By focusing on the three goals of boosting quality, improving health and lowering costs, accountable care organizations hold the potential of delivering better results for less—saving money both for patients and for taxpayers.

“The opportunity to pilot new and innovative models of care is precisely why AARP supported creating the Innovation Center. Today's announcement shows the potential of the Innovation Center to advance new ideas to improve health care for people in Medicare and all Americans. The pilot programs will allow a range of providers to form ACOs and test new payment models, whether they are integrated medical groups with a history of care coordination, small physician practices or hospitals. We applaud this CMS initiative to lead the way to better care.”

For more information, visit www.aarp.org.

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