

# MEDICARE ACCESS AND CHIP REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015—H.R. 2

## Key Features

- ❖ Repeals the flawed Medicare sustainable growth rate (SGR) permanently, effective immediately.
- ❖ Guarantees positive payment updates of 0.5% per year, for four and a half years (July 2015 through 2019), for all physicians participating in the Medicare program.
- ❖ Provides new medical liability protections for physicians participating in quality improvement programs.
- ❖ Current quality incentive and payment programs, such as PQRS, meaningful use, and VBM, are consolidated and streamlined into a single program.
  - The total financial risk to physician practices from penalties has been reduced to 8 percent compared to 13 percent under current law.
- ❖ Funding is provided for the development of physician quality measures.
  - Physicians retain their preeminent role in developing quality standards.
- ❖ Physicians practicing in a recognized patient centered medical home or in any other alternative payment model (APM) recognized by the Secretary, will receive a 5 percent bonus in years 2019 to 2024.
  - Physician participation in an APM is voluntary.
  - Starting in 2026 and beyond, physicians in APMs qualify for a 0.75 percent update; all others will receive a 0.25 percent annual update.
- ❖ \$100 million is provided to assist small physician practices participate in APMs or the new fee-for-service incentive program, for years 2016 to 2020.
- ❖ The fee-for-service payment system is retained.
- ❖ Extends funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program for two years.
- ❖ Extends the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) program for two additional years.
- ❖ Extends funding for Community Health Centers for two years.
- ❖ Extends funding for the National Health Service Corps for two years.

## **AAFP Resources**

[AAFP Statement on Senate's Failure to approve H.R. 2 prior to spring recess](#)

[AAFP, ACP, ACS, and AOA H.R. 2 support letter to the United States Senate](#)

[AAFP Statement on House of Representatives approval of H.R. 2](#)

[AAFP Press Statement on SGR Repeal and CHIP Funding Proposal](#)

[AAFP Letter of Support for the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act \(H.R. 2\)](#)

[AAFP, ACP, ACS, and AOA OpEd in \*The Hill\*](#)

[AAFP News: Advocacy Tools Enable FPs to Tell Congress to Repeal SGR](#)

[In the Trenches – SGR: Time to say goodbye to a familiar foe](#)

## **What People Are Saying**

[New York Times](#)

[Wall Street Journal](#)

[Los Angeles Times](#)

[Bipartisan Policy Center](#)

[Galen Institute – Grace-Marie Turner](#)

[American Action Forum – Douglas Holtz-Eakin](#)

[Americans for Tax Reform](#)