ACCC Statement on the Administration's Medicare Part D and Medicare Advantage Proposal to Tackle Drug Prices

On Monday, November 26, 2018, the Trump Administration came forward with another year-end follow-up to drug pricing reform efforts with the release of the [Contract Year (CY) 2020 Medicare Advantage (MA) and Part D Drug Pricing Proposed Rule](#).

As the leading education and advocacy organization for all members of the multidisciplinary cancer care team, the Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) is concerned broadly about the impact of the proposal on the entire cancer care delivery infrastructure and particularly on those cancer programs and practices that see a high percentage of Medicare, Medicare only, and dual eligible patients. Focused on drug pricing reform in MA plans and in Medicare Part D, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed rule upends its long-held policy that the Medicare Part D program allow for six protected classes, lowering access safeguards to vital cancer therapies for patients across the United States.

CMS has proposed to use therapy, prior authorization, and other utilization management (UM) tools within Part B, as well as to introduce potential exclusions for Part D therapies from drug formularies.

ACCC believes that the proposed overhaul of Medicare Part B and Part D reimbursement will restrict oncology professionals' ability to appropriately provide cancer patients with access to comprehensive care and therapy options at an affordable cost to patients. While ACCC commends the Administration for pushing for increased transparency at the pharmacy for all patients, the amplified use of UM tools to curb Medicare expenditures only further exacerbates complexities of care that oncology patients are faced with every day.

For more information, please see the [CMS fact sheet](#) for the proposal on this payment model and review the full proposed rule [here](#).