



American Board of Medical Specialties

Higher standards. Better care.®

American Board of Medical Specialties
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February 1, 2013

Representative Allyson Schwartz
1227 Longworth Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Schwartz:

The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) appreciates this opportunity to comment on the Medicare Physician Payment Innovation Act, which would end the application of the sustainable growth rate system; stabilize Medicare payments for 2013, promote rapid development and implementation of alternative improved payment and delivery models that incentivize high quality, high-value care; and, provide continuing incentives for physician adoption of such alternative payment and delivery models.

The ABMS shares your interest in promoting high quality health care and supports several of the general goals of your legislation, specifically the section that would reward clinicians for high-quality, high-value care. We are pleased to support provisions within the Act that allow physicians to use their Maintenance of Certification (ABMS MOC®) activities to satisfy federal quality reporting requirements.

ABMS is a not-for-profit organization consisting of 24 Specialty Boards that certify the quality of physicians in over 145 medical specialties and subspecialties. ABMS Member Boards certify approximately 800,000 physicians in the United States. During the past 10 years ABMS and its member Boards launched maintenance of certification, ABMS MOC®, to help certified medical specialists maintain and deepen their knowledge, skills and capabilities in their changing medical specialty disciplines. Today more than 450,000 medical specialists are actively engaged in their Boards' ABMS MOC® programs. Early studies demonstrate the positive relationship between the ABMS Board certification process, the MOC program and quality of care.

We look forward to working with you and sharing our experience in physician performance assessment and improvement to improve health care quality and value.

Sincerely,

Lois Margaret Nora, MD, JD, MBA
President and Chief Executive Officer

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