



May 4, 2015

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chairman  
Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee  
U.S. Senate  
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee  
U.S. Senate  
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (HR 2)**

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

The undersigned members of the Physician Clinical Registry Coalition would like to thank you for your leadership in the passage of H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act. We especially appreciate the inclusion of several provisions promoting provider participation in clinical data registries, including qualified clinical data registries. Providing registries with better access to Medicare data will enhance the ability of clinical data registries to track patients over time and better assess their clinical outcomes and need for follow-up treatment. Incorporating registry participation into the new Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) will greatly improve the effectiveness of this new system and ensure that quality measures are specialty-specific and relevant for participating physicians. We also appreciate that the SGR bill provides a pathway for the development of alternative payment models that can utilize robust clinical information from specialty-specific clinical registries to reward physicians for providing the best possible patient care and improving health outcomes. Lastly, we applaud the requirement that the Secretary of Health and Human Services provide guidance on the application of the Common Rule to clinical data registries. The overlapping application of the Common Rule with the HIPAA privacy and security regulations to clinical data registries is highly confusing and sorely in need of clarification.

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The Coalition is a group of more than 20 organizations that sponsor and support physician-led clinical data registries. We are dedicated to improving quality of care by working for policies that promote the creation and development of outcomes-based clinical data registries. The undersigned members thank you again for the pivotal role you played in finally making SGR reform a reality.

Respectfully,

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DERMATOLOGY ASSOCIATION  
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NEUROLOGY  
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY  
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS  
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS  
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS  
AMERICAN GASTROENTEROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
AMERICAN JOINT REPLACEMENT REGISTRY  
AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR RADIATION ONCOLOGY  
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY  
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NUCLEAR CARDIOLOGY  
AMERICAN UROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
GIQUIC/ AMERICAN COLLEGE OF GASTROENTEROLOGY  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SPINE SPECIALISTS  
SOCIETY OF INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY  
SOCIETY FOR VASCULAR SURGERY  
SOCIETY OF NEUROINTERVENTIONAL SURGERY  
THE SOCIETY OF THORACIC SURGEONS