

To Whom It May Concern:

The undersigned cardiovascular specialty organizations thank you for creating the Clinical Committee to provide input on the development of episode-based resource use measures under the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA). It is crucial that clinician perspectives are included throughout the episode development and update processes to ensure that any episodes developed for resource use measurement under MACRA accurately reflect real world clinical practice and patient scenarios.

In the MACRA proposed rule, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) proposes twelve cardiovascular episode-based resource use measures. Within a given episode window of care, a patient may be treated by a range of cardiovascular specialists, including those involved in the diagnosis and of the patient and those providing the specific treatment or intervention provided to the patient.

To effectively provide CMS with the complete clinical perspective on these episodes, we strongly encourage Acumen to at a minimum, select the following clinicians as a group to ensure representation of the full range of cardiovascular specialties on the Clinical Committee.

James C. Blankenship, MD  
Linda Gillam, MD  
Scott Jerome, DO  
Marvin A. Konstam, MD  
Edward Martin, MD  
Jeffrey B. Rich, MD  
A. Allen Seals, MD  
David Slotwiner, MD  
William Van Decker, MD

These clinicians should be provided with a clear orientation to CMS' and Acumen's process and methodology for developing episode-based measures so that they can appropriately reconcile their clinical expertise with an understanding of how these measures will operate and be applied across payment programs under MACRA.

Thank you again for the opportunity to nominate clinicians to participate in the process to develop and update these episode-based resource measures for use under MACRA.

American College of Cardiology  
American Society of Echocardiography  
American Society of Nuclear Cardiology  
Heart Failure Society of America  
Heart Rhythm Society  
The Society for Cardiac Angiography and Interventions  
Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography  
Society for Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance  
Society of Thoracic Surgeons