

Physicians' Views of Pay for Performance

Alan R. Nelson, MD, MACP

Alliance for Health Reform

December 15, 2006

Physicians' View of P4P

- Which Physicians?
- What Pay for Performance programs?

Just what are we talking about??

My focus today:
Quality measurement and
reporting, plus supportive payment
policies, for the Medicare program

Which physicians?

- Physician organizations:
 - American Medical Association
 - American College of Physicians
 - American Academy of Family Physicians

Practice setting and geographic location makes a difference. Some specialties are just getting started and have no policy framework

What are the concerns?

- That measures be evidence-based, valid, and relevant (e.g. developed by the Physicians Consortium, validated by the National Quality Forum, and approved by AQA)
- The administrative burden, especially in paper-based offices
- The cost of implementing information technology
- Adverse selection

More Worries

- Efficiency measures may not be adequately risk-adjusted
- Misattribution of costs among multiple physicians caring for the same patient
- Reporting system errors

IOM: Proceed cautiously and
correct as you go

Lessons from the UK

- Lake Wobegone syndrome
- Doctors, like everyone, perform to the test

Medicine: A system in Transformation

- A cottage industry is being phased out
- Primary care is under stress
- Change is hard (but inevitable)