AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS

MGMA®
Medical Group Management Association

JOINT STATEMENT

The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) and the Medical Group Management Association (MGMA) believe that transparency is important and contributes to the betterment of our health care system. We jointly believe that utilization of credible data is important and that effective use of any data requires an understanding of its strengths and limitations.

Our organizations collect data on our respective members on a regular basis and make that data available in various formats to our members and the public. In doing so, we clearly state that the information presented is for the purpose of informing members and nonmembers alike. The information presented is intended to be descriptive rather than prescriptive and is not intended to be used for the purpose of limiting competition, restraining trade, or reducing or stabilizing salary or benefit levels.

The MGMA Physician Compensation and Production Reports currently report data for more than 60,100 providers in 170 specialties, the largest provider population of any of the many physician compensation surveys available in the United States. These data have been used for more than 35 years as a benchmark for compensation and production in practices of all sizes, types, and regions. Each reporting year, MGMA and its staff data analysts rigorously analyze the data for reporting errors, mathematical miscalculations, inconsistencies, and extreme values.

Unfortunately, some AAFP members have expressed concern over potential misuse of data from MGMA's annual Physician Compensation and Production Survey by their employers in salary contract negotiations.

To ensure appropriate data analysis and action, the AAFP and MGMA recommend the following best practices:
1) Identify data from multiple sources.
2) Understand differences in data definitions.
3) Be knowledgeable of the sample size and respondent population.
4) Know how the data were collected and calculated.
5) Use multiple metrics when analyzing the environment (compensation, collections, compensation per work relative value unit, encounters, etc.).
6) Recognize that comparative data are meant to represent ranges.