



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA

May 29, 2013

Marilyn Tavenner, Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
Room 445–G, Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue SW.
Washington, DC 20201

Re: Transparency Reports and Reporting of Physician Ownership or Investment Interests

Dear Administrator Tavenner:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), which represents more than 110,600 family physicians and medical students nationwide, I write in response to the information collection request titled “Transparency Reports and Reporting of Physician Ownership or Investment Interests” as [published](#) in the May 6, 2013 *Federal Register*.

Section 6002 of the *Affordable Care Act* is designed to make information publicly available about payments or other transfers of value from certain manufacturers of drugs, devices, biologicals and medical supplies covered by Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), defined as applicable manufacturers, to physicians and teaching hospitals, which are defined as covered recipients. In February 2013, CMS released the [final rule](#) implementing this policy.

In this information collection request, CMS seeks public feedback on data template forms developed by the agency that applicable manufacturers must annually provide to CMS to fulfill their reporting obligation. The AAFP appreciates CMS’ continued efforts to implement this policy since we value transparency as it can help the public and policymakers understand the dynamic relationships between healthcare professionals and the medical industry.

However, the AAFP remains very concerned that CMS is creating a data collection mechanism which directly pertains to an individual physician’s financial information without first providing physicians with the ability to review and correct the interim data gathered by the applicable manufacturers. As a way for CMS to help ensure that only accurate transparency reports are published, the AAFP strongly encourages CMS to

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create a mechanism for physicians to review, correct, and dispute their interim data during a pre-CMS submission review period. If CMS offered this mechanism, all physicians could then, as needed, review their reports and make corrections with the specific manufacturer prior to the federal government aggregating a physician report across multiple applicable manufacturers. The AAFP believes the technology exists for applicable manufacturers to provide both real-time and aggregated quarterly reports to physicians. The time for this pre-CMS submission review period should be in addition to the existing review period available post-CMS submission.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments and make ourselves available for any questions you might have or clarifications you might need. Please contact Robert Bennett, Federal Regulatory Manager, at 202-232-9033 or rbennett@aafp.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glen Stream MD". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Glen Stream, MD, MBI, FAAFP
Board Chair