

these costs, as well as increase patient satisfaction and improve patient health.

"Simply reforming the fee-for-service system, which undervalues preventive health and team care coordination, cannot produce the results that Congress and patients require," said Goertz. He proposed a blended payment model that contains 3 elements:

- some fee-for-service payments
- a care coordination fee that compensates physicians for their expertise and the time required for primary care activities, which are not paid for currently
- performance bonuses based on a voluntary pay-for-reporting/performance system, and for care team members and services that are not eligible for fee-for-service billing

Acknowledging that it will take time to transition to a blended payment model, Goertz, called for a 5-year transition period with mandated payment updates that incorporate higher rates of at least 2% for primary care physicians for Medicare fee-for-service payments.

In addition, he noted, Congress should continue to pay the primary care incentive payment for primary care services called for by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, but it should increase that incentive payment from 10%-20%. Congress also needs to permanently extend the program that equalizes Medicaid and Medicare payment rates, Goertz said.

"Both of these programs, along with mandated updates that are 2% higher for primary care physicians, will help stabilize current (medical) practices that have seen such financial turmoil in the past few years," said Goertz.

During this proposed 5-year period, it also will be crucial to encourage as much innovation as possible, said Goertz. "The new CMS Center for (Medicare and Medicaid) Innovation needs to be a key focus of this effort. We believe this center can help CMS create market-based, private sector-like programs that can significantly bend the health care cost curve."

The SGR formula has repeatedly called for cuts in Medicare payments to physicians during the past few years. In 2010, Congress intervened 5 times to block impending Medicare payment cuts mandated by the SGR. Without further Congressional intervention, physicians face a cut of 29.4% on January 1.

The SGR formula threatens the stability of the Medicare system for both patients and physicians, said lawmakers during the hearing.

The SGR is symptomatic of a "fundamentally flawed payment system," said Rep. Joe Pitts, R-Pa., chair of the subcommittee. "Keeping the current system or making minor adjustments is no longer a viable option."

Congress needs to "work toward a new way of paying for care, for physicians and all providers, that encourages integrated care," noted subcommittee member Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif.

The PCMH is an excellent example of an integrated care model that uses a team-based approach to deliver patient-centered care, said Goertz during a question-and-answer session, adding, "There are more than enough demonstrations that already show the benefit (of the medical home)."

Subcommittee member Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., also touted the benefits of the PCMH. She described the experience of Dean Health Systems, an integrated health system in her district that has significantly improved care and reduced costs by adopting the medical home model. The health system developed its own payment system to support the PCMH model because of the limitations of the fee-for-service system, said Baldwin.

Developing a medical home where a practice-based care team takes collective responsibility for a patient's ongoing care, "would not have been possible within the (current) fee-for-service construct," said Baldwin.

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AMERICAN BOARD OF FAMILY MEDICINE ELECTS NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

The American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) is pleased to announce the election of 4 new officers and 3 new board members. The new officers elected at the ABFM's spring board meeting in April 2011 are: Warren P. Newton, MD of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, elected as Chair; Samuel Jones, MD of Fairfax, Virginia as Chair Elect; Arlene Brown, MD of Ruidoso, New Mexico as Treasurer; and Michael Workings, MD of Detroit, Michigan as Member-at-Large, Executive Committee. In addition, the ABFM welcomes this year's new members to the Board of Directors: Laura M. Brooks, MD of Lynchburg, Virginia; James Kennedy, MD of Winter Park, Colorado; and Stanley Kozakowski, MD of Milford, New Jersey.

The new ABFM officers will each serve a 1-year term:

Warren Newton, MD, Chair, has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2007. Dr Newton is the Executive Associate Dean for Medical Education and William B. Aycock Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has held local, state, and national leadership positions within family medicine and has been involved in the development of the North Carolina Governor's Quality Initiative. In addition to serving as Board Chair, Dr. Newton will serve as an ex officio member of all ABFM committees and as a representative to the American Board of Medical Specialties.

Samuel Jones, MD, Chair-Elect, has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2008. Dr Jones has practiced at the Fairfax Family Practice Centers in Fairfax, Virginia for the past 20 years, in addition to serving as the Secretary/Treasurer for its Board of Directors. He is also the Program Director and a member of the teaching faculty of the Virginia Commonwealth University Fairfax Family Medicine Residency Program. Dr Jones will serve the ABFM on the Executive Committee, the Credentials Committee, the Information & Technology Committee, the Examination Committee, the Audit/Finance Committee, the Communications/Publications Committee, the MC-FP Committee as its Chair, and as a representative to the American Board of Medical Specialties.

Arlene M. Brown, MD, Treasurer, has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2007. She is a practicing family physician with over 20 years' experience caring for her patients and her community. She has taught medical students, residents, and mid-level students and has been involved in quality improvement initiatives. She is a recipient of the New Mexico Family Doctor of the Year Award. Dr Brown will serve the ABFM on the Executive Committee, the Bylaws Committee as its Chair, the Examination Committee, the Audit/Finance Committee as its Chair, the Communications/Publications Committee, and the MC-FP Committee.

Michael G. Workings, MD, Member-at-Large of the Executive Committee has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2008. Dr Workings is affiliated with the Henry Ford Health System and is an Assistant Professor of Family Medicine at Case Western Reserve University, Wayne State University, the Medical College of Ohio and the Chicago Medical School. Dr Workings is also the team physician for the

Detroit Tigers. Dr Workings will serve the ABFM on the Executive Committee, the Bylaws Committee, the Credentials Committee, the Information & Technology Committee as its Chair, the Examination Committee, the Audit/Finance Committee, the Communications/Publications Committee, and the MC-FP Committee. The following new Board members will each serve a 5-year term:

Laura M. Brooks, MD is a practicing pediatrician at F. Read Hopkins Pediatric Associates in Lynchburg, Virginia where she has been since 2000. She has also been a member of the Board of Directors of the American Board of Pediatrics since 2009. Dr Brooks previously served as the medical codirector of the newborn nursery and as an associate in pediatrics at Duke University Medical Center. Dr. Brooks will serve the ABFM on the Examination Committee and the Communications/Publications Committee.

James Kennedy, MD is a practicing family physician in Winter Park, Colorado where he started a new Advanced Idealized Micropractice in 2005. He is also the Chair of the County Medical Society and the Rural Health Network in his community. In addition, Dr Kennedy has served as an Assistant/Associate Professor of Family Medicine at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center since 1994. Dr Kennedy will serve the ABFM on the Credentials Committee and the MC-FP Committee.

Stanley M. Kozakowski, MD is the Director of the Hunterdon Medical Center Family Medicine Residency Program in Flemington, New Jersey. He is also the Chair of the Council of Academic Family Medicine and the Immediate Past Chair of the Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors. Dr Kozakowski is also a clinical professor at both the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey- Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Albany Medical College. Dr Kozakowski will serve the ABFM on the Research & Development Committee and the MC-FP Committee.

The remaining current members of the Board are: Diane K. Beebe, MD of Jackson, Mississippi; Howard Blanchette, MD of Valhalla, New York; Erika Bliss, MD of Seattle, WA; Thomas H. Cogbill, MD of LaCrosse, Wisconsin; Craig W. Czarsty, MD of Oakville, Connecticut; Alan David, MD of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Susan C. Day, MD of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Carlos Roberto Jaén, MD of San Antonio, Texas; and Kailie R. Shaw, MD of Tampa, Florida.

*Jane Ireland
American Board of Family Medicine*