

## Lawmakers Ask CMS To Drop Global Pay Data Collection Proposal

Backing providers, a bipartisan group of House lawmakers asked CMS to ease off its proposed approach for collecting data to adjust Medicare global surgical payment. However, the lawmakers praised CMS for proposing to not cut pay by 5 percent for providers who don't report data.

The lawmakers join the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) in criticizing the CMS Physician Fee Schedule proposal rule as needlessly burdening providers and suggesting the Agency instead collect data from a sample of providers.

CMS originally planned to reduce payment for surgical bundles, but last year surgeons convinced Congress to block the payment cuts as part of physician payment

legislation. Instead, the law requires CMS to gather information from a representative sample of physicians, beginning in 2017, to place a value on surgical services.

However in the 2017 proposed rule, the Agency proposed requiring all practitioners submit claims data on pre- and post-operative visits, and said it would survey a sample of 5,000 practitioners and some accountable care organizations. The lawmakers said that approach "disregards" the law. "The proposal will impose an undue administrative burden on the surgical community, disproportionately directing provider resources toward compliance and away from patient care," the lawmakers wrote in a letter to CMS.