

## Physician Groups Selected for Initiative Promoting Better Cancer Care

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that it has selected nearly 200 physician group practices and 17 health insurance companies to participate in a care delivery model that supports and encourages higher quality, more coordinated cancer care. The Medicare arm of the Oncology Care Model (OCM) includes more than 3,200 oncologists and will cover approximately 155,000 Medicare beneficiaries nationwide.

The Oncology Care Model encourages practices to improve care and lower costs through episode- and performance-based payments that reward high-quality patient care. The CMS is one of the first CMS physician-

led specialty care models and builds on lessons learned from other innovative programs and private-sector models. As part of this model, physician practices may receive performance-based payments for episodes of care surrounding chemotherapy administration to Medicare patients with cancer, as well as a monthly care management payment for each beneficiary. The practices participating in OCM have committed to providing enhanced services to Medicare beneficiaries, such as care coordination and navigation, and to using national treatment guidelines for care. OCM is a five-year model that begins on July 1, 2016, and runs through June 30, 2021.