NEW CMMI DIRECTOR: VALUE-BASED CARE DOESN'T NECESSARILY ENTAIL MORE RISK

The new director of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) said that he wants to use his new role to reduce regulatory burdens, promote better sharing of data and encourage value-based care through models that would not necessarily involve providers taking on more risk.

“Value-based care, in my mind, does not need risk,” said Adam Boehler, who was appointed last month by HHS Secretary Alex Azar to lead the innovation center.

“You can be highly efficient and low-cost and contribute an enormous amount of value to the health care system. Risk, when done well, adds value. I do believe that. But that’s one way to add value. And there are multiple,” Boehler told an audience at the Medical Device Manufacturers Association’s (MDMA) annual conference in Washington.

One of the key payment models run by the innovation center is accountable care organizations, which seek to push providers to assume financial risk based on the outcomes of their patients. But few providers have signed up for two-sided risk. Azar recently called the performance of ACOs lackluster and said he hopes to use the innovation center to drive value-based care.

Boehler told MDMA conference attendees that the Trump administration has a market-based approach to the health care system, though he did not offer specifics about potential new payment models the center may consider.

“There’s a lot of ways to define value,” he said. “There’s a lot of ways that we can lower mortality and improve quality and take costs out of the system and have patients choose the things they want, without risk.”