

## NEW MEDICARE RADIATION ONCOLOGY ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT MODEL SET TO BEGIN ON JANUARY 1, 2021

On September 18, 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) issued a final rule establishing a Radiation Oncology Alternative Payment Model (RO Model) effective January 1, 2021. The RO Model is designed to test whether prospective 90-day episode-based payments to approximately 950 physician group practices (PGPs), hospital outpatient departments (HOPDs), and freestanding radiation therapy centers will reduce Medicare expenditures while preserving or enhancing the quality of care for Medicare beneficiaries. Mandatory participation by the participants in the pre-selected Core Based Statistical Areas (CBSAs) represents 30 percent of all eligible episodes.

Under the RO Model, Medicare would pay participating providers and suppliers a site-neutral, episode-based payment for specified professional and technical radiation therapy (RT) services furnished during a 90-day episode to Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries diagnosed with 16 cancer types. The base payment amounts for RT services included in the RO Model would be the same for hospital outpatient departments and freestanding radiation therapy centers. The performance period for the RO Model would be five performance years, beginning January 1, 2021, and ending December 31, 2025 with required reporting of clinical data elements and quality measures.

Do you know if you are a **mandatory** participant of the new 5-year Medicare Radiation Oncology Model that begins on January 1, 2021? You can check to see if your practice zip code is included in the RO Model at <https://innovation.cms.gov/media/document/ro-particip-zip-codes-list>

For more information regarding the RO Model, go to the CMS website at <https://innovation.cms.gov/innovation-models/radiation-oncology-model>

For a summary of the RO Model final rule (and mandatory participants zip code file) go to: <https://www.aapm.org/governmentaffairs/CMS/2021HealthPolicyUpdate.asp>

AAPM will provide a free Web Event on Monday, October 5th at 3:00 pm eastern time. To Register click [here](#).