

## **CMS DELAYS RADIATION ONCOLOGY MODEL INDEFINITELY**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) recently published the Radiation Oncology (RO) Model final rule. After considering public comments, CMS is finalizing their proposal to delay the start of the RO Model to a date to be determined through future rulemaking.

CMS states that they would plan to propose a new start date for the RO Model at least 6 months prior to that proposed start date, and the public would have an opportunity to comment on the new proposed start date as part of the rulemaking process.

One commenter requested that CMS cancel the RO Model and CMS replied that they do not agree with the comments that the RO Model should be cancelled.

CMS will consider whether a January 1, 2024 start date or alternative start date would be feasible and whether such a date is likely to provide enough time to address the current challenges associated with starting the RO Model as the Agency contemplates future rulemaking.

CMS states that they welcome further dialogue with interested parties and RO Participants about the design of the RO Model.

ASTRO provided a statement and reported that "ASTRO is currently developing a new proposal for an alternative payment model to share with stakeholders later this year."