

Streamlining CMS's portfolio of alternative payment models

ISSUE: CMS concurrently operates many alternative payment models (APMs), including the permanent Medicare Shared Savings Program and a number of temporary APMs developed by CMS's Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI). While these APMs have generated some promising impacts so far—including gross savings, before model payments are taken into account—the crowded APM landscape may be diluting the strength of APMs' incentives and thus affecting their ability to generate larger savings and quality improvements.

KEY POINTS: In March, commissioners discussed a draft recommendation that would encourage the Secretary to operate fewer alternative payment models with more harmonized features. The goal of such a policy would be to strengthen models' incentives and in turn help them generate larger savings and quality improvements.

ACTION: Commissioners will vote on the draft recommendation.