



CMS Wants Physicians to Spend More Time on Patients, Less on Paperwork

The CMS recently launched an initiative to help it determine what provider regulations it should junk or revamp, citing growing concerns that its regulations are reducing the time providers spend with patients.

As part of the Patient over Paperwork initiative, CMS officials will travel the country to gather information on the impact their regulations have on physicians. Those conversations have been taking place informally for weeks. The outreach effort comes at a time that primary-care physicians are spending 27% of their time on clinical activities and 49% on administrative activities, according to a 2016 *Annals of Internal Medicine* study.

The new initiative was announced one day after the American Hospital Association released a report about the regulatory burden its members face.

CMS Administrator Seema Verma said she consistently hears that meaningful use requirements, which measure how well providers are using health IT, are far too burdensome without offering much benefit, and quality measures tied to various pay models need to be rethought to ensure they are actually leading to better care and lower costs. Verma indicated that physicians will soon see examples of the agency's commitment to rolling back regulations when the final rule that implements the second year of the MACRA rollout is released.

(Source: Dickson, V. [Modern Healthcare](#), October 26, 2017)