

AAMC Statement in Support of MHA SDS Risk-Adjustment Model

Statement from Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) in support of the Missouri Hospital Association's (MHA) risk-adjustment model that accounts for socio-demographic status (SDS) in Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program (HRRP) measures:

“The nation’s medical schools and teaching hospitals and the physicians who practice in them have always had a deep commitment to caring for the most vulnerable patients, particularly those who are sicker and poorer. Institutions that treat more vulnerable populations are disproportionately impacted under the HRRP and other Medicare performance programs due to socio-demographic factors over which providers have no direct control, and a lack of SDS adjustment in quality measurement. The AAMC applauds the MHA for developing a risk-adjustment model that incorporates SDS factors in measures in the HRRP. This type of information can be very important in helping state and federal officials determine where additional health care services and resources are needed to improve outcomes.

MHA has developed an ‘enriched’ risk adjustment model that incorporates SDS, allowing for a comparison of hospitals that treat similar patient populations, and more accurately predicts which patients will be readmitted than the current CMS methodology. The MHA’s work in this area is a significant step in the right direction. The AAMC urges the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to incorporate MHA’s work into a revised HRRP, as well as consider its application to other Medicare quality performance programs”