



THE CRD ASSOCIATES'

HEALTH POLICY REPORT

October 2, 2014

The Headlines:

- **SGIM Re-Issues Report of the National Commission on Physician Payment Reform**
- **PCORI Board Approves New Awards Totaling Nearly \$102 Million**
- **PCORI and AHRQ Announce Research Team to Conduct Study on Uterine Fibroids**

SGIM Re-Issues Report of the National Commission on Physician Payment Reform

With the November elections just around the corner, time is running out on the 113th Congress and with it prospects for the passage of *SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Modernization Act*, the bipartisan, bicameral legislation to repeal the

flawed sustainable growth rate. In front of Capitol Hill staff, SGIM held a briefing to re-issue the report of the National Commission on Physician Payment Reform.

SGIM President Bill Moran and Health Policy Committee Chair Mark Schwartz, together with American Academy of Family Physicians President Reid Blackwelder and

American College of Physicians Executive Vice President and CEO Steve Weinberger, called for Congress not to waste this opportunity to pass bipartisan legislation to repeal the SGR while the cost is still low, \$130 billion. The panelists highlighted that many of the provisions in the legislation mirror the recommendations advanced by the National Commission.

Besides the provisions in the report, congressional staff expressed interest in the panel's ideas about how to incentivize medical students to enter careers in primary care. Discussion followed on the Medicaid pay parity legislation also before Congress and how non-fee-for-service payment models will create better incentives for young physicians to enter the practice of primary care.

While SGIM was calling for repeal of the SGR on Capitol Hill, SGIM members for participating in a Virtual Capitol Hill Day advocating for repeal. Over 100 messages were sent to members of Congress calling for Congress to act now rather than potentially be forced to pass the 18th patch to the SGR when the current one expires at the end of March.

Prior to the briefing on Capitol Hill, former Senator Bill Frist and Dr. Steven Schroeder, chairs of the

National Commission, called for Congress to act this year and repeal the SGR in an OpEd published in *The Hill*. The full text can be found at <http://thehill.com/opinion/op-ed/218665-fix-the-doc-fix-once-and-for-all>.

PCORI Board Approves New Awards Totaling Nearly \$102 Million

PCORI's Board of Governors this week [approved nearly \\$102 million in funding](#) for 46 new patient-centered clinical comparative effectiveness research (CER) projects. These include two \$10 million studies focused on obesity treatment options for underserved patients in primary care settings, one in [the Midwest](#) and [the other in Louisiana](#). Another award will provide \$14.9 million to identify which [transitional care services](#) will best improve outcomes that matter most to patients as they return home after hospital stays. The Board also approved 43 awards, totaling \$67 million, under broad funding announcements issued in February through [its five National Priorities for Research](#). Visit the [Research & Results section](#) of the PCORI website to learn more about these latest awards, all of which were approved pending a business review and completion of a research contract.

PCORI and AHRQ Announce Research Team to Conduct Study on Uterine Fibroids

PCORI and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) this week also announced the selection of a research team -- led by Evan Myers, MD, MPH, of Duke University -- to carry out a major five-year, \$20 million project [comparing treatment strategies for uterine fibroids](#). These common non-cancerous tumors can

lead to significant pain, bleeding, and fertility problems among women of childbearing age. [The project](#) will include building a patient registry that will capture women's treatment experiences and conducting comparative studies focusing on outcomes that matter most to patients.

Health Policy Committee Leadership Contact Information

Mark Schwartz, HPC Chair	Mark.Schwartz@nyumc.org
Angela Jackson, HPC Co-Chair	angela.jackson@bmc.org
Bill Moran, Council Liaison	moranw@musc.edu
Bobby Baron, Education Sub. Chair	baron@medicine.ucsf.edu
Tom Staiger, Clinical Practice Sub. Chair	staiger@uw.edu
Gary Rosenthal, Research Sub. Chair	gary-rosenthal@uiowa.edu
Cara Litvin, Membership Dev. Sub. Chair	litvincb@musc.edu

Health Policy Committee Staff Support

Francine Jetton, SGIM	jettonf@sgim.org
Lyle Dennis, CRD Associates	ldennis@dc-crd.com
Dom Ruscio, CRD Associates	druscio@dc-crd.com
Erika Miller, CRD Associates	emiller@dc-crd.com