



American Hospital
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November 14, 2014

Patrick Conway, M.D.
Deputy Administrator for Innovation & Quality, Chief Medical Officer
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Room 445-G
Washington, DC 20201

RE: Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative

Dear Dr. Conway:

The AHA is pleased to note the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation's (CMMI) recent announcement that it will provide up to \$840 million in grant funding to promote and support clinical practice transformation. We support the goals of the Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative (TCPI) to share, adapt, and further develop comprehensive quality improvement strategies to improve patient health and reduce health care costs. In the announcement, CMMI notes that it expects hospital and health systems to apply to participate in the initiative as Practice Transformation Networks, and indeed, many AHA members would be well-positioned to assist CMS in achieving the goals of this program.

We urge CMMI to extend the application deadline, which is currently January 6, 2015, by six weeks until February 17, 2015. The application requirements are extensive and applicants will require substantial time to compile the requested information. Under the existing deadline of January 6, applicants have a very small window of time to engage and secure commitments from clinicians to participate. We have heard from some members that it will be difficult to put together a competitive application in the timeframe provided.

Thank you for your attention to this request. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at (202) 626-4628 or lfishman@aha.org.

Sincerely,

/s/

Linda E. Fishman
Senior Vice President, Public Policy Analysis & Development

