



## PRESS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Maryland's Episode Quality Improvement Program, EQIP, saved \$20 million in the first year.**

*Maryland shares results from the first year of this value-based payment program for specialist physicians.*

**Baltimore, MD**—In its first year, the Episode Quality Improvement Program (EQIP) saved \$20 million for Medicare. Under EQIP, physicians can earn a portion of the Medicare savings they create through delivering efficient and high-quality patient care.

EQIP is a program under the Maryland Total Cost of Care (TCOC) Model. EQIP engages non-hospital Medicare practitioners who care for Medicare beneficiaries in care transformation and value-based payment. Through the Episode Quality Improvement Program, specialist physicians help the state meet its Medicare savings target under the TCOC model. Each year, the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission calculates the Medicare savings generated by the program.

The Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) created EQIP for specialist physicians in 2022. The program was developed in conjunction with MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, the Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP), Maryland's state designated HIE, and MHA, The Maryland Hospital Association, with the input of practitioners from across the state. CRISP administers the program under the guidance of HSCRC. An introduction to EQIP can be found on [CRISP's website here](#).

*"The positive results of this program are due to partnership and teamwork. Physicians, CRISP and the State's development of this type of unique value-based opportunity for physicians stands out as an example of how Maryland is a leader in the transition to value-based care"* said Gene Ransom, Chief Executive Office of MedChi.

Melony Griffith, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Maryland Hospital Association notes that "The Maryland Hospital Association has valued partnering with the HSCRC, MedChi

**The Health Services Cost Review Commission is an independent agency of the State of Maryland**

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and CRISP to develop innovative care redesign programs such as EQIP. We're pleased to collaborate on this important work with our partners to build healthier communities."

Participation in EQIP is voluntary for practitioners that participate in Medicare. In 2022, the first year of the program, 1980 practitioners participated. In 2023, participation expanded to 2733 practitioners and 3217 practitioners are enrolled for 2024, representing 43 specialties. In 2024, EQIP is engaging physical therapists for the first time through an innovative episode designed to improve early onset orthopedic care to prevent avoidable care including surgeries, injections, and MRIs.

*"The success of the EQIP program in improving patient outcomes and reducing healthcare costs is a prime example of how partnership and collaboration under Maryland's Total Cost of Care Model can drive healthcare transformation and innovation"* said Jon Kromm, Executive Director of the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission.

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*About the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC):*

*The Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) is an independent state agency tasked with regulating the quality and cost of hospital services to ensure that all Marylanders have access to high-value healthcare. The HSCRC is committed to enhancing the quality of healthcare and patient experience, improving population health and health outcomes, and reducing the total cost of care for Marylanders.*