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2020 Issue Brief Pathway to Value

Issue

In 2015, Congress passed the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA), essentially mandating that healthcare providers take on payment risk over the next several years. Since then, federal policymakers have embarked on an ambitious transformation in healthcare financing. AMGA has conducted four risk-readiness surveys of its membership to obtain a snapshot of the progress and challenges providers face during this transformation of the U.S. healthcare system. To ensure the successful transition from volume to value, legislators must address significant obstacles in the healthcare market identified in the survey results.

In the surveys, AMGA members repeatedly expressed concern with the lack of access to timely federal and commercial payer administrative claims data. Successfully managing a patient population requires that providers have access to data to ensure the most effective course of action in improving health outcomes and currently, access to this data often is denied or limited. AMGA urged the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee to remedy this issue, which led to the inclusion of Section 501 in the *Lower Health Care Costs Act*, which allows providers access to administrative claims data through an application programming interface. The legislation was approved in June 2019 by the Senate HELP Committee and awaits further consideration in the House of Representatives.

Additionally, AMGA members submit claims data to different insurance companies in different formats, creating a massive administrative burden and a diversion of resources from providing care. Large amounts of resources, including human capital, are expended on this data submission and reporting, when it would be better devoted to caring for patients.

AMGA Asks Congress to:

- Require federal and commercial payers to provide access to all administrative claims data to healthcare providers.
- Require federal and commercial payers and providers to standardize claims data submission and reporting processes.