



September 24, 2021

Via Email
Amanda Uherek
auherek@hlc.org

Dear Ms. Uherek:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation's (Innovation Center) vision and strategy laid out in the August 12, 2021, *Health Affairs* blog post.

We share a desire and commitment to ensuring that families, patients, and beneficiaries across the country have access to high-quality, value-based care. Since the Innovation Center's inception in 2010, more than 50 innovation model tests and alternative payment models (APMs) have been launched as a part of this effort. A review of the Innovation Center's work has provided valuable insights which, in turn, will help shape our path forward. We have concluded that health equity is fundamental to health care transformation, and we are taking steps to improve beneficiary experience and health outcomes across race, geography, and socioeconomic status.

Additionally, based on our lessons learned and stakeholder feedback from organizations such as yours, our strategy moving forward will aim to improve model participants' experience by re-examining financial benchmarks and risk adjustment methodology, leveraging technology and data-sharing, and providing enhanced flexibilities as appropriate. It is our hope that launching fewer models that are more harmonized and by rethinking how we define success and model outcomes, we can zero-in on what works and appropriately scale best practices to effect lasting change for the U.S. health system.

I appreciate you taking the time to offer suggestions for improving transparency and collaboration across a model's life cycle. We agree that frequent and meaningful communication between the Innovation Center, providers, insurance plans and patient groups will be instrumental in fostering large-scale health care transformation. We are confident that with your support, we can expand access to value-based, high-quality care and ultimately, improve patient outcomes. We look forward to continuing the discussion with your organizations. Please share this response with the organizations who co-signed your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Fowler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Elizabeth Fowler
Director
Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation