

# THE WASHINGTON DEBRIEF

CHIME PUBLIC POLICY  
WORKING FOR YOU

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### Cybersecurity

#### New Threat Alert

**Key Takeaway:** The Office for Civil Rights flags new threat for healthcare.

**Why it Matters:** The Office of Civil Rights (OCR) last week alerted the healthcare community to a [threat analysis](#) that is being circulated by the U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT) on [Grizzly Steppe](#). These are attacks on the U.S. digital infrastructure that have linked to Russian civilian and military intelligence efforts.

The report provides specific signatures and recommendations to detect and mitigate threats from Grizzly Steppe actors, defend against webshell attacks and defend against spearphishing attacks. OCR has provided additional details on appropriate cybersecurity information on its [website](#), and the US-CERT provides secure forms for reporting all of these types of activities at <https://www.us-cert.gov/report/>. OCR encourages the healthcare industry to monitor US-CERT website for reports on vulnerabilities. Alternatively, information can be received directly via email by visiting US-CERT's Mailing Lists and Feeds webpage at <https://www.us-cert.gov/ mailing-lists-and-feeds/>.

#### Medical Devices

**Key Takeaway:** Advamed publishes cybersecurity principles [document](#).

**Why it Matters:** Medical device security has come under increased scrutiny as more data is stored and exchanged electronically. The Advanced Medical Technology Association (Advamed), the trade association that represents many of the device manufactures, describes their document as the "medical device industry's foundational principles for building a cybersecurity program for the development and deployment of secure medical devices." They offer five principles to guide manufacturers' medical device cybersecurity:

- Effective cybersecurity risk management program should incorporate both premarket and postmarket lifecycle phases and address cybersecurity from medical device conception to disposal.
- All elements of the system must be appropriately managed and secured.
- A disclosure process that provides a pathway for researchers and others to submit information, including detected potential vulnerabilities, to the organization.
- Continuously management of their device's cybersecurity throughout the product's lifecycle.
- Development of consensus standards and regulations should be a collaborative effort between regulators, medical device manufacturers, independent security experts, academia, and health care delivery organizations.

### MACRA/APMs

#### Call for Measures & Activities

**Key Takeaway:** Tomorrow is the submission deadline to CMS for ideas on new measures and activities for MIPS for 2018.

**Why it Matters:** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) opened a short, two-week window which ends Tuesday, February 28 when it will accept ideas for new measures and activities under MIPS. CHIME encourages members to submit any and all ideas. Submission by Tuesday guarantees CMS will consider them for inclusion in the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) for 2018. Ideas submitted between March and June will be considered for following years. CHIME plans to submit a request that CMS include credit under the "improvement activities" area that reward clinicians for engaging in good cyber hygiene. Forms for submission can be found below.

- Advancing Care Information: Measures proposed for inclusion should be sent using the [Advancing Care Information Submission Form](#).
- Improvement Activities: Activities proposed for inclusion should be sent using the [Improvement Activities Submission Form](#).
- Quality: Measures proposed for inclusion should be submitted through [JIRA](#).

#### CMS funds aim to help small practices succeed in MACRA

**Key Takeaway:** The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has awarded nearly \$100 million in funding to assist small practices in the Quality Payment Program (QPP) established by the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA.)

**Why It Matters:** Great concern exists among policymakers about the ability for small practices to be successful in MACRA programs, but the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is hoping to mitigate challenges by awarding grants for on-the-ground training and education for individual or small group practices.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) awarded approximately \$20 million to 11 organizations for the first year of a five-year program to provide technical assistance to clinicians and practices concerning their participation in the QPP. CMS intends to invest up to an additional \$80 million over the remaining four years.

As part of that outreach effort, CMS also launched a new telephone helpline for clinicians seeking assistance with the Quality Payment Program. Clinicians may contact the Quality Payment Program by calling 1-866-288-8292 from 8AM - 8PM EST or emailing [gpp@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:gpp@cms.hhs.gov).

CMS awarded contracts to the following organizations to provide the on-the-ground training and education to small practices:

- Altarum
- Georgia Medical Care Foundation (GMCF)
- HealthCentric
- Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG)
- IPRO
- Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement (NRHI)
- QSource
- Qualis
- Quality Insights (West Virginia Medical Institute)
- Telligen
- TMF Health Quality Institute

For more information on the Quality Payment Program, please visit: [gpp.cms.gov](http://gpp.cms.gov)

### Telehealth

#### Bill Reintroduced to Expand Access to Telestroke services

**Key Takeaway:** Currently, Medicare only covers telestroke in the most rural, underserved areas, but [legislation](#) introduced in Congress earlier this month would expand coverage nationwide.

**Why It Matters:** Interest in expanding access to telehealth services, especially for Medicare beneficiaries, continues to grow as evidenced by the reintroduction of a bipartisan [bill](#) with a focus on stroke patients.

The Furthering Access to Stroke Telemedicine (FAST) Act [introduced](#) on February 16, 2017, introduced by Representatives Morgan Griffith (R-VA) and Joyce Beatty (D-OH), expands access to stroke telemedicine treatment in Medicare. Senator John Thune (R-SD) introduced the telestroke expansion [legislation](#) into the Senate with Senators Brian Schatz (D-HI) and Roger Wicker (R-MS). Current policy only supports telestroke services in rural and underserved areas.

#### CHIME Member Public Policy Office Hours

Take advantage of CHIME Public Policy office hours if you have a specific question or request that you think the CHIME team can assist you with relating to federal policies. Having trouble finding the hardship exemption application? Need clarification on eCQM reporting timelines? How did my senators vote on a bill? Who is my congressman's healthcare staffer?

**Just ask.**

#### WORKING FOR YOU IN WASHINGTON



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Thoughts, Questions or  
Comments? Please  
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**Office Hours:**  
9:00am - 5:00pm