September 4, 2012

Marilyn Tavenner
Acting Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

Re: Hospital Outpatient Prospective and Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment Systems and Quality Reporting Programs for CY 2013 (CMS-1589-P)

Dear Acting Administrator Tavenner:

The American College of Radiation Oncology (ACRO) is pleased to offer its comments to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on the Proposed Rule: Hospital Outpatient Prospective and Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment Systems and Quality Reporting Programs for CY 2013 (CMS-1589-P). ACRO represents radiation oncologists in the socioeconomic and political arenas. With a current membership of approximately 1,000, ACRO is dedicated to fostering radiation oncology education and science; improving patient care services; studying the socioeconomic aspects of the practice of radiation oncology; and encouraging education in radiation oncology.

A separate letter was submitted to CMS on September 4, 2012 by the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO). ACRO senior volunteers were participants in the development of the ASTRO response and we consider it an accurate assessment of the issues and agree with the positions taken. We look forward to continuing to work with CMS to guarantee quality oncology services can be provided by our specialty to every Medicare patient.

Sincerely,

J. Michael Kerley, M.D., FACRO
President
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