



NATIONAL GRANGE

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July 8, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Seema Verma
Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
Attn: CMS-1735-P
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

RE: Medicare Program; CAR T-Cell Immunotherapy

Dear Administrator Verma:

The National Grange is the country's oldest general farm and rural advocacy organization. Our members and their neighbors in rural and small-town America have a higher cancer rate and tend to be older, sicker and isolated farther from specialized health care than their urban and suburban counterparts. Access to receiving and paying for critical care is a big challenge for us.

We appreciate the CMS proposed inpatient payment rule for FY2021 that will be a major step forward in providing access to CAR T therapy for Medicare patients diagnosed with cancer. This proposal will sufficiently compensate hospitals for their costs of delivering CAR T therapy to Medicare beneficiaries. That means more facilities in more locations will be able to provide access to this innovative procedure for rural and small-town citizens. We understand it is critical these new therapies are immediately assigned to MS-DRG 018 upon FDA approval to ensure timely patient access to these new treatments.

Thank you for bringing this proposal forward and we urge its adoption as soon as possible.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the CMS FY 21 IPPS proposed rule to update hospital payments.

Respectfully,

Betsy Huber
President