

Submitted on Thu, 06/09/2022 - 11:39

Name

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Town/City

Brattleboro

Topic

Accountable Care Organization

Comment

Topic: Medicare-Only ACO guidance

I am an elder who is on Medicare. I specifically chose traditional Medicare rather than Medicare Advantage because I do not want my care to be mediated by a company that determines who is in their network and that “manages” my care. I trust my primary care doctor and other medical practitioners I see to work with me to manage my care in line with my best interests.

I am very concerned that a Medicare DCE—Clover Health—is gaining a foothold in Vermont, and especially concerned that, as a Medicare participant, I could be assigned to a DCE if my doctor’s medical practice affiliates with it. I have no control over the decisions the practice makes and the pressures that they may be under to affiliate. When I inquired about how I could stay on traditional Medicare if that were to happen, I was told that I would need to find a new doctor who wasn’t affiliated. As I’m sure you’re aware, finding a new doctor is not so easy these days, not to mention that I have a good relationship with my doctor and wouldn’t want to leave their practice for an unknown new practitioner. In addition, if Medicare DCEs take over in Vermont, as OneCare has done, unaffiliated doctors will be few and far between.

I urge the Green Mountain Care Board to do all in its power to keep Medicare DCEs or ACO Reach out of Vermont. Aside to my own concerns as a Medicare participant, on the fiscal side of things, I am appalled that Medicare DCEs are allowed to spend much more on overhead (lobbying, advertising, etc.—things NOT related to patient care) than is traditional Medicare, whose overhead is only 2%. Medicare dollars—and all health care investments—should go to patient care. That is the whole point of a health care system. Traditional Medicare does this well and I encourage the Green Mountain Care Board to ensure that Vermont Medicare participants like me will be able to choose traditional Medicare without having to change doctors. Though it could use some expansion on the federal level, Medicare is working well. Let’s preserve traditional Medicare as a viable program. It’s what those of us who paid into Medicare for years expected to be eligible for when we hit 65. Please do not turn this public program over to a form of “accountable” care that isn’t actually accountable to the general public.

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Yes