

November 6, 2020

Kevin Mullin
Chair
Green Mountain Care Board
144 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

SUBJECT: 2020 Vermont Medicare ACO Initiative Revised Benchmark Request (Section 8.b.ii.2.)

Dear Mr. Mullin,

On October 22, 2020, the Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB), according to its duties outlined in Section 8 of the Vermont All-Payer Accountable Care Organization (ACO) Model Agreement (Agreement), submitted a request to revise the 2020 Vermont Medicare ACO Initiative trend factor to ensure consistency with standards set forth in section 8.b.ii.1 of the Agreement.

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approves the amended proposal regarding the 2020 Vermont Medicare ACO Initiative Benchmark (ACO Financial Benchmark). Specifically, use three months (and subsequently six months, at final benchmark settlement) of Medicare paid claims run out from 2020, to recalculate the trend factor to reflect actual per beneficiary expenditures as the difference between the statewide alignment-eligible population in 2020 and those incurred in 2019 by a comparable reference population, as required in Section 8.b.ii.1.d.

This letter also serves to document the mutual understanding between the GMCB and CMS that when the trend factor is recalculated, GMCB must ensure that the ACO Financial Benchmark “incentivizes high-quality care, promotes efficient care, and supports improvement in the health of aligned beneficiaries,” as described in Section 8.b.ii.1.a. CMS also acknowledges that in 2020, GMCB used its authority outlined in Section 8.b.iii of the Agreement to direct a minimum of \$8.4M to fund Support and Services at Home (SASH) and the Blueprint for Health’s primary care medical home and community health teams as a condition of the ACO’s 2020 Budget Order approved by the GMCB and that these funds support the State in achieving the goals set forth in the Agreement.

We appreciate your dedication to improving health outcomes under the Model. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Fatema Salam at Fatema.Salam1@cms.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,



Rivka Friedman
Director, State Innovations Group
Acting Director, Prevention and Population Health Group
Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

cc:

Pierre L. Yong, MD, MPH, MS, Division Director
Division of All-Payer Models, State Innovations Group, CMMI

Katherine J. Sapra, PhD, MPH, Deputy Division Director
Division of All-Payer Models, State Innovations Group, CMMI

Fatema Salam, MPH, Health, Insurance Specialist
Division of All-Payer Models, State Innovations Group, CMMI