

February 21, 2018

Seema Verma

Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
Department of Health and Human Services, P.O. Box 8010
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Administrator Verma,

As a nonpartisan coalition of more than 70 organizations dedicated to combatting older adult malnutrition, the Defeat Malnutrition Today coalition has been pleased to hear the positive comments from the Administration regarding screening, detecting, treating, and preventing malnutrition in older adults, as well as regarding promoting good nutrition in older adults. We write to follow up on two specific instances where you have commented on nutrition and malnutrition.

First, during your confirmation hearing, in response to a written question for the record on the topic of malnutrition from Sens. Casey and Carper, you said, "I look forward to reviewing current reporting and performance programs for Medicare, Medicaid, and private health insurance plans to make sure that we get the data we need to improve health outcomes and to understand the impact of determinants of health, such as nutrition." **What progress has CMS made on this review? What plans are there to share the results of this review?**

Second, in August 2017, CMS issued its final rule on [Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems for Acute Care Hospitals/Quality Reporting Requirements](#) for FY2018. In this rule, CMS responded to four malnutrition electronic clinical quality measures that were submitted in the Measures Application Process, stating, "We agree that a systematic approach to quality improvement is essential and could include increasing awareness of malnutrition and improving management of nutrition in hospitals. We acknowledge the benefits and need for inclusion of malnutrition measures, as outlined by the commenters, and will consider the feasibility of implementing these measures in the Hospital IQR Program in the future." **Do you have a more precise timetable of when CMS will consider implementing these measures?**

Finally, we are encouraged that HHS is convening a 2018 Healthy Aging Summit and is moving forward to develop Healthy People 2030 goals. **We are interested in learning how CMS' recognition of the issue of malnutrition and nutrition as a determinant of health will be integrated into national health goals to help older adults maintain their functionality and age more healthfully.**

Thank you for taking the time to read and respond to our questions and please let us know if we can provide you with any further information.

Sincerely,

Bob Blancato
National Coordinator
Defeat Malnutrition Today
rblancato@matzblancato.com