



March 27, 2012

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
221 Dirksen Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

On behalf of the Scott & White Center for Healthcare Policy, we are writing to let you know of our support for the concept and direction your proposed legislation, "Medicare Better Health Rewards Program Act of 2012." This legislation provides for incentive payments to Medicare beneficiaries who voluntarily establish and maintain better health. We would like to commend you for your interest in working to help control future avoidable healthcare costs by offering incentives for healthy choices by patients. This will allow clinicians to have additional influence to encourage Medicare beneficiaries to get the evidence based screening exams to detect disease for early treatment and sometimes cure.

Since Scott & White Healthcare is an integrated healthcare system, we believe that it makes sense for your legislation to allow all health professionals to participate in the "Medicare Better Health Rewards Program." While our system is physician led, we know the value of team based care utilizing a variety of health professionals in a collaborative and integrated healthcare system. By engaging other health professionals, this helps to promote efficiency and ultimately helps in providing appropriate care for the patient.

Having the "Medicare Better Health Rewards Program" operate for at least three years will help in realizing the benefits of the wellness programs.

Senator Wyden, thank you very much for taking the initiative in promoting a program that emphasizes incentives for patients to minimize or eliminate unhealthy behaviors from their lifestyle. This benefits not only the patients and their families, but our entire U.S. healthcare system. It recognizes that the patient should be actively engaged in their health and designing a reward system to recognize their active engagement is an appropriate health policy change for the Medicare program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Rohack".

J. James Rohack, MD, FACC, FACP
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