

# Useful Acronyms

## LEGISLATION

### ACA — Affordable Care Act

Legislation passed in 2010 under the Obama Administration that requires U.S. citizens to have health care coverage.

### CR — Continuing Resolution

A temporary funding bill that funds the Government while the appropriations bill is being written.

### MACRA — Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act

Legislation passed in 2015 that shifted physician reimbursement from a “fee-for-service” payment model to a quality incentive program, called the Quality Payment Program (QPP).

### Omnibus

A legislative vehicle that combines multiple appropriations bills into one large funding package.

### PAMPA — Patient Access and Medicare Protection Act

Legislation that was unanimously passed in 2015 that froze reimbursement rates for freestanding radiation oncology centers until the end of 2018. In February 2018, a bill was passed that extended the freeze until the end of 2019.

## PROGRAMS

### APM — Alternative Payment Model

The physician alternative to participating in MIPS that allows specialties to submit payment models to CMS which reward high-quality, cost-effective care.

### RO-APM — Radiation Oncology Alternative Payment Model

A radiation oncology specific APM. ASTRO has been working with CMMI to develop a model before the current radiation oncology code freeze expires at the end of 2019.

### MIPS — Merit-based Incentive Payment System

The reporting system designed under MACRA that moves Medicare physicians to a performance-based reimbursement program that incentivizes quality measure improvements. All eligible physicians were required to begin participation in 2017 to avoid a negative payment adjustment.

### OCM — Oncology Care Model

The only oncology-related model in the Advanced APM portfolio. Reimbursement levels are dependent on the performance accountability for episodes of care administered to patients receiving chemotherapy and related services.

### QPP — Quality Payment Program

Ended the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) and replaced it with two quality-incentive options for physicians to choose between. The options include: participating in the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) or an Alternative Payment Model (APM).

## AGENCIES

### CMMI — Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovations

An organization under CMS that was created by the Affordable Care Act to test new payment models that are meant to improve quality outcomes. Led by Deputy Administrator and Director Adam Boehler. ASTRO is working with CMMI to help develop an RO-APM before the current code freeze expires at the end of 2019.

### CMS — Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

A federal agency under the Department of Health and Human Services that administers health insurance in the form Medicare/Medicaid and is responsible for reimbursements for physician services.

### HHS — Health and Human Services

A cabinet under the administration exists to protect the health of Americans and promote innovations. Led by Secretary Alex Azar.

### NIH — National Institutes of Health

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), a part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the nation’s medical research agency — making important discoveries that improve health and save lives.

### NCI — National Cancer Institutes

A sub-agency within the NIH that exists to conduct and maintain activities in relation to the cause, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

### NRC — Nuclear Regulatory Commission

A government agency that regulates the nation’s civilian use of byproduct, source and special nuclear materials to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety, to promote the common defense and security, and to protect the environment.

