

# Value-Based Payment NEWS

## Quest Sees Plans, Physicians Investing in IT Together to Promote Value

“Value-based care is the destination,” says a new report from Quest Diagnostics, “and we’re making progress toward it, but obstacles on that path persist.” The 2017 Quest Diagnostics/Inovalon study – “Progress on the Path to Value-Based Care: A Survey of Physicians and Health Plan Executives” – sees “differing perceptions of physicians and health plan executives” when it comes to information technology as “part of the problem.” But the information the pair gathered also “suggests both want to work together to foster adoption of value-based care.” The key mandates: “better alignment and more co-investment of time and resources.”

Here are highlights from the report:

- 82% of respondents “believe the transition to value-based care will continue regardless of federal legislative reforms.”
- Most physicians and health plan executives still believe the nation’s healthcare system is “fundamentally fee-for-service,” but 29% said the US “has value-based healthcare,” up from 25% in 2016. Still, most “individuals at the point of care” believe healthcare is “behind the adoption curve” and fee-for-service “dominates healthcare” – and physicians in practice for 20 years or longer are more likely to be among them.
- 70% of plan executives said “progress has been made to better align health plans and providers,” but just 47% of physicians agreed. Still, 83% of all respondents said that “now, more than ever, there is a need for alignment to achieve value-based care.”

The report says that “one of the most striking findings” is this: 53% of health plan executives said that “physicians have the tools they need to succeed in value-based care,” but 43% of physician did. That 10-percentage-point gap was bigger last year, at 15 percentage points, “suggesting progress toward alignment,” the report comments. Last year, it adds, 29% of physicians said they had the tools to succeed, representing a 14-percentage-point increase in 2017. And just 44% of plan executives agreed in 2016, for a nine percentage-point increase this time around.

The “striking gap in perceptions,” as Quest calls it, about the availability of tools is tied to “differing views about the value of EHRs,” the report also notes. 75% of health plan executives said that “EHRs have everything physicians need,” while just 54% of physicians agreed. And, Quest says, 70% of physicians said they don’t see “a clear link between their EHRs and better patient outcomes;” 65% said if they could “get one key insight at the point of care,” it would be “information related to performance or quality measures.” But physicians “continue to invest in EHRs,” Quest points out, “despite doubts about their value.” Why? Potential. 71% said they’d be “willing to spend more time using technology if their EHRs could yield insights unique to their patients.” And 87% agreed that “access to quality and performance measures specific to patients is key to achieving value-based care.”

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## Cardinal Health Report Sees Little Oncologist Support for MACRA

Cardinal Health Specialty Solutions reports introducing *2017 Oncology Insights*, the first in a series of research reports that, it says, “provide perspective on key issues for specialty care providers, biopharma companies and other healthcare stakeholders.” It documents how oncologists view critical issues impacting their practices, a statement says, including “the transition to value-based reimbursement, use of real-world evidence to make treatment decisions and the role of pharmaceutical companies in providing patient support services.”

Joe DePinto, President at Cardinal Health Specialty Solutions, comments that “oncology care has never been more complex, with a variety of issues creating both challenges and opportunities for those working to advance cancer care. As a leading provider of solutions to the specialty care industry, it is our hope that this research helps promote informed discussions among healthcare stakeholders that lead to better solutions.” *2017 Oncology Insights* was released in conjunction with the 2017 annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the statement adds; the findings are based on three oncology summits conducted by Specialty Solutions earlier this year, which brought together a combined total of more than 170 oncologists from across the United States, including a diverse mix of community and hospital-based practices.

Key findings include these, Cardinal Health says:

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