Palliative Care and COPD: Bundling Up with Medicare (TH313)

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Objectives
- Recognize the definition and features of a Medicare bundled payment (BP) program and an integrated practice unit (IPU).
- Define the possibilities for palliative and supportive care integration into the new forms of payment mechanisms within the Affordable Care Act.
- Discuss the results of a 1-year pilot bundled payment project for COPD incorporating palliative and supportive care.

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is an increasingly common condition in the United States, and patients with advanced COPD represent significant utilizers of healthcare resources throughout their illness. Certainly as the disease progresses, the role of palliative and supportive care for these patients grows as they become more fragile and in many cases will require increasing resources, including clinic and emergency department visits, home services, and hospitalizations. This session will provide a general introduction to several of the newer payment mechanisms emerging as part of the Affordable Care Act, with particular emphasis on integrated practice units (IPUs) and bundled payments. The session will also highlight the development of a bundled payment project at a large, greater-than-900-bed acute-care academic institution that incorporated palliative and supportive care interventions into the IPU care model. The session will be presented by members of the interdisciplinary team that developed this model, including palliative care and pulmonary physicians, a nurse practitioner, and a member of the healthcare system leadership team. Results from the first year of the COPD bundled payment project will be highlighted, including changes in medical care management, order sets, automated tracking and referrals for patients in the bundle, consultation with palliative and supportive care, involvement of home care and pulmonary rehabilitation, and initial financial results from the first cohort of patients.