



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **The US Oncology Network Reacts to Finalized Radiation Oncology Model**

*The Network remains committed to value-based care for radiation oncology,  
but sees Model as a lost opportunity with an untenable timeline*

**WASHINGTON, DC** – The US Oncology Network (The Network) – the nation's largest network of community-based oncology physicians – today issued the following statement regarding the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) newly-finalized advanced alternative payment model (APM) for radiation oncology practices:

As a lead participant in CMS's Oncology Care Model, The Network has long supported the development and thoughtful implementation of value-based care models to improve clinical outcomes for Americans with cancer. However, after months of proactive collaboration with the radiation oncology community, The Network is concerned that CMS's final RO Model may be a lost opportunity. The Model not only fails to accommodate stakeholder input but includes an unreasonable and unrealistic implementation date of January 1, 2020, which unfortunately jeopardizes the model's success before it even begins.

While CMS made some minor improvements to the Model, its final rule largely dismissed provider concerns. The abbreviated timeframe for implementing such significant practice changes is impractical and poses a serious challenge to even the most committed champions of value-based care, particularly in light of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Further, the final rule would also force some practices to maintain separate billing systems, creating additional burden on radiation therapy providers.

"This tremendously short runway from CMS to launch an untested model, expecting 30% of the radiation oncology community to come into full compliance within a matter of 3 months, is simply unrealistic—especially as our practices continue to be battered by the evolving COVID-19 pandemic," said Vivek Kavadi, MD, FASTRO, chief radiation oncologist, The US Oncology Network. "While we fully support the goals of extending value-based care to patients receiving radiation therapy, this proposal falls far short. We sincerely hope that CMS will strongly reconsider such an aggressive starting date and allow for practices to make all necessary investments and preparations."

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*Every day, [The US Oncology Network](#) helps more than 1,350 independent physicians deliver value-based, integrated care to patients — close to home. Through The Network, these independent doctors come together to form a community of shared expertise and resources dedicated to advancing local cancer care and to delivering better patient outcomes. The Network provides practices with access to coordinated resources, best business practices, and the experience, infrastructure and support of [McKesson Corporation](#). This collaboration allows the providers in The Network to focus on the health of their patients, while McKesson focuses on the health of their practices. The Network is committed to the success of independent practices, everywhere.*