

SHM Position on Independent Payment Advisory Board

The Society of Hospital Medicine believes the future sustainability of the Medicare Trust Fund will require changes to directly address the growth in Medicare spending. However, the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB), as established by the Affordable Care Act (ACA), is an unaccountable body that would force spending cuts without any safeguards in place to ensure that such cuts wouldn't be to the detriment of patient care. Rather than selectively targeting inefficiencies or finding better ways to deliver care, the IPAB mechanism would target provider payments for cuts, potentially resulting in a negative impact on Medicare beneficiaries' access to care. As such, SHM supports efforts to repeal the IPAB.