The final passage in April of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA) not only did away with SGR—it also paved the way for significant reforms of the way physicians are paid under Medicare. MACRA represents the biggest change to US health care policy since the Affordable Care Act was passed in 2010. While many details of the MACRA provisions need to be determined, the AAN wants you to become familiar with the changes ahead.

**Right Now**
In a nutshell, all existing Medicare quality programs—and penalties—remain unchanged through 2018. You need to participate in order to avoid a penalty now and into the future. During that time, much of MACRA will be defined and refined by the Department of Health and Human Services.

**In the Future**
Starting in 2019, you will have the option to either participate in the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) or participate in a certified Alternative Payment Model (APM). Members who bill traditional fee-for-service would be in MIPS while those with a significant portion of their billings from an accountable care organization or a patient-centered medical home would potentially qualify as an APM provider. But as with any proposed program, the devil is in the details, and the details have yet to be hashed out.

**What You Should Do**
Bottom line: Stay the course—or begin participating in the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS), demonstrating Meaningful Use, and understanding your Value-based Payment Modifier if you are not doing so already. And be aware that these programs will be consolidated into MIPS starting in 2019.

For those currently participating in an alternative payment model, you may be able to take a separate track for APM participants. Qualifying APM participants are excluded from potential MIPS penalties and have the opportunity to earn a 5-percent annual bonus from 2019 to 2024.

To learn more about the PQRS, what it is, and how to avoid a penalty, visit AAN.com/view/PQRS.

For more information on the value-based payment modifier, visit AAN.com/view/VM or access the AAN’s short video series at http://ow.ly/EslNc.