

Protect Traditional Medicare and the Choices of Traditional Medicare Beneficiaries

WHEREAS, the Psychotherapy Action Network and its Strategic Partners have a commitment to support Traditional Medicare in order to protect access to affordable quality psychotherapy, which has already been made more vulnerable with the growth of privatization of Medicare services through Medicare Advantage Plan, as well as a re-branded Direct Contracting Entity program called ACO-REACH that was adopted in 2022.

WHEREAS, ACO-REACH incentivizes profiteering while taking away choice from Traditional Medicare beneficiaries to align them with REACH entities, placing their care into the hands of private for-profit corporations without their consent; and

WHEREAS, Medicare funds will pay these companies more money for patients with more complex diagnoses, thereby providing a strong incentive to engage in a fraudulent practice known as “up coding,” meaning that they exaggerate the coding of beneficiaries’ diagnoses, resulting in higher costs to Medicare funds than if the beneficiaries were in the Traditional Medicare program, and

WHEREAS, the fundamental difference between for-profit health insurance models and Traditional Medicare is that for-profit insurance limits care in order to provide maximum profit up to 40% for its shareholders through narrow networks, requiring pre-approvals and denials of care while Traditional Medicare has an administrative cost of 2%;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social affirms its commitment to Traditional Medicare, a critical safety net for millions of Americans and a symbol of our nation’s commitment to take care of our seniors, and recognizes the danger that the ACO-REACH privatization plan poses to Traditional Medicare and its beneficiaries by taking away their choice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social will communicate that commitment to Secretary Xavier Becerra, Secretary of Health and Human Services, and Director Chiquita Brooks La-Sure, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, alerting them to the danger to Traditional Medicare and the need for termination of the ACO-REACH program.