The American Medical Association (AMA) is committed to transparency that improves patient care and ensures patients and physicians have access to the data they need to make informed medical decisions. Transparency efforts and improving the use of health care data will be issues discussed during our annual meeting next week.

“The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has made a key improvement to its physician claims data release by separating Part B drugs from payment for physician services, thus eliminating the misleading perception that drug reimbursement was physician income.

“However, we remain concerned that the 2013 data still has significant shortcomings. Specifically, the data released today does not provide actionable information on the quality of care that patients and physicians can use to make any meaningful conclusions. It also does not provide enough context to prevent the types of inaccuracies, misinterpretations and false assertions that occurred the last time the administration released Medicare Part B claims data.

“We continue to urge CMS to improve upon its data releases so that patients and physicians can actually use the information to better work together to improve quality, improve health outcomes and reduce costs.”
physicians to continually provide safer, higher quality, and more efficient care to patients and communities. For more than 165 years the AMA has been unwavering in its commitment to using its unique position and knowledge to shape a healthier future for America. For more information, visit ama-assn.org.