What AOA Members Need to Know about the Physician Payments Sunshine Act
The Physician Payments Sunshine Act requires CMS to publically post payments or other transfers of value made to physicians and teaching hospitals by pharmaceutical, medical products manufacturers, and group purchasing organizations (GPOs) on its website.

When is CMS releasing the payment information it has received from medical product manufacturers?
CMS plans to release the information on applicable physician payments in June.

What payment information is being reported to CMS by medical products manufacturers and GPOs?
- Meals provided during office visits or speakers programs
- Educational and research grants
- Payments related to R&D
- Speaker fees
- Educational items and material, including article reprints
- Consulting fees and related travel

How do I register for CMS’ Open Payments System so that I can review my data?
Registration can be found on CMS’ Open Payment website or by clicking here.

How can I verify that the payment information submitted to CMS is correct?
Physicians should check and verify their National Provider Identifier (NPI), state license information, and first and last names against CMS’ data sources. Once verified, physicians should log in to Open Payments System and select the “Review and Dispute” tab.

What if my data is wrong?
Physicians may review and report their disputes with medical products manufacturers.

Other important information physicians should know:
- The AOA encourages all DOs to regularly monitor their payment information and to contact CMS for further assistance.
- As part of its FY 2015 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule final rule, CMS is phasing out an exemption for reporting Continuing Medical Education (CME) as a payment. The AOA opposed the agency’s decision to remove the CME exemption and expressed our concern in comments to CMS.

If you are having trouble verifying the accuracy of your payment data, or have further questions, please contact the AOA Department of Government Relations at govt-issues@osteopathic.org.