

## Bowen Addresses Bundled Payments

*Wolters Kluwer Health Reform WK-EDGE*  
10.2014

Charlotte Health Care Member Carol Bowen was quoted in *Wolters Kluwer's Health Reform WK-EDGE* on October 21, in the top story "Strategic Perspectives: Do bundled payments improve care and lower costs?" The piece examines bundled payments, which, in large part due to a push from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, are being considered and tested as alternatives to traditional fee-for-service payment models. The article identifies strengths and weaknesses of bundled payment systems.

*"According to Bowen, separate ownership can lead to challenges in complying with laws like the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) (P.L. 104-191). Bowen said coordination creates HIPAA compliance issues because, 'at this time, many post-acute care providers are separately owned and operated from acute care hospitals and, thus, may not share electronic medical record systems. As a result, providers participating in a bundled care arrangement who do not share a patient medical record system will have difficulty in coordinating patient care, which is so critical to these arrangements. In addition, lack of a common patient medical record database may mean that historical data across the complete care continuum is not available to use when structuring a bundle, so providers may find it difficult to determine where risks are. If there is not a common medical record database, there are technology challenges to ensuring HIPAA and state law compliance with sharing medical information electronically.'"*