



Sound Policy. Quality Care.

December 7, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Medicare Physician Reimbursement

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leaders McCarthy and McConnell:

The undersigned organizations of the Alliance of Specialty Medicine (Alliance) write to urge Congress to act before the end of the year to prevent all the impending cuts facing physicians in calendar year 2022, including extending the moratorium on the 2% Medicare sequester, addressing cuts related to the Medicare conversion factor, as well as the 4% PAYGO sequester stemming from passage of the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021*. Further, it is imperative that Congress commit to hold hearings and work with the provider community to explore long-term solutions to these recurring problems.

Our provider community continues to experience severe financial losses due to the drastic decreases in non-COVID-related and non-emergency care. Additionally, physician practices continue to experience significantly reduced patient volume and are incurring large expenses to ensure that they can safely accommodate patients in need of care.

Earlier this year, the Alliance requested the congressional committees of jurisdiction to convene oversight hearings to examine the implementation of physician-focused value-based care initiatives authorized under the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) of 2015. Such hearings are necessary to address these issues in the long-term.

Our specialty society members are actively engaged in efforts to enhance quality and improve the outcomes and experiences of their patients. Based on our collective experience over the last five years, it is evident that

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American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery • American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
American Association of Neurological Surgeons • American College of Mohs Surgery • American College of Osteopathic Surgeons
American Gastroenterological Association • American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association
American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery • American Society of Echocardiography • American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Society of Retina Specialists • American Urological Association • Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
Congress of Neurological Surgeons • National Association of Spine Specialists

misguided implementation policies have severely limited the effectiveness of MACRA's physician-focused initiatives. Some of the challenges include:

- Administrative complexity of MIPS;
- Policies that disincentivize meaningful specialty measures;
- Flawed value assessments;
- Constantly shifting goalposts;
- Unactionable and untimely performance feedback and program evaluation;
- Lack of coordination within CMS; and
- Limited ability for specialties to develop and participate in advanced payment models

Our organizations are committed to improving value and investing in programs that will help meet Medicare's goal of delivering high-value quality care. We stand ready to work with you to extend critical financial relief to providers during the public health emergency and to address the underlying issues impacting Medicare reimbursement.

Sincerely,

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