



3300 Woodcreek Drive
Downers Grove, Illinois 60515
630-573-0600 / 630-963-8607 (fax)
Email: info@asge.org
Web site: www.asge.org

June 21, 2018

2018-2019 GOVERNING BOARD

President

STEVEN A. EDMUNDOWICZ, MD, FASGE
Univ. of Colorado School of Medicine – Aurora
steven.edmundowicz@ucdenver.edu
720-848-2786

President-elect

JOHN J. VARGO II, MD, MPH, FASGE
Cleveland Clinic – Cleveland
vargoj@ccf.org
216-445-5012

Vice President

KLAUS MERGENER, MD, PhD, MBA, FASGE
Washington Gastroenterology – Tacoma
kdmergener@gmail.com
206-852-3034

Secretary

BRET T. PETERSEN, MD, FASGE
Mayo Clinic – Rochester
petersen.bret@mayo.edu
507-284-2687

Treasurer

DOUGLAS K. REX, MD, FASGE
Indiana University Medical Center – Indianapolis
drex@iupui.edu
317-948-8741

Past Presidents

KENNETH R. McQUAID, MD, FASGE
San Francisco, California

KAREN L. WOODS, MD, FASGE
Houston, Texas

Councilors

MICHELLE A. ANDERSON, MD, MSc, FASGE
Ann Arbor, Michigan

SUBHAS BANERJEE, MD, FASGE
Palo Alto, California

TODD H. BARON SR., MD, FASGE
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

JENNIFER A. CHRISTIE, MD, FASGE
Atlanta, Georgia

JASON A. DOMINITZ, MD, MHS, FASGE
Seattle, Washington

VANESSA M. SHAMI, MD, FASGE
Charlottesville, Virginia

ASGE Foundation Chair

JOHN L. PETRINI, MD, FASGE
Santa Barbara, California

Gastrointestinal Endoscopy – Editor

MICHAEL B. WALLACE, MD, MPH, FASGE
Jacksonville, Florida

Chief Executive Officer

PATRICIA V. BLAKE, FASAE, CAE
Downers Grove, Illinois

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Brady,

The American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) offers its strong support of and encourages Committee approval of the “Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment Transparency Act of 2018” (H.R. 6138). ASCs are important to the practice of gastroenterology, providing a safe, convenient and cost-effective health care site of service.

The legislation does two important things to ensure that the value of ambulatory surgery centers (ASC) to patients and the health care system is recognized by Medicare. First, the legislation adds an ASC representative to the Advisory Panel on Hospital Outpatient Payment. Second, it requires the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to disclose which criteria have triggered an exclusion of procedures from the ASC procedure list.

We remind the Committee, however, that the gap continues to widen between Medicare payments for services provided in the Hospital Outpatient Department and in the ASC. Legislating that ASC payments should be updated annually using the hospital market basket index would help to stem the widening gap between HOPD and ASC payments and improve ASC payment predictability. In fact, pursuit of getting procedures and services approved for payment in the ASC setting is sometimes met with reimbursement so inadequate that there is no incentive for physicians to provide the service in the ASC setting. This does not improve patient access.

ASGE applauds your commitment to advance H.R. 6138 and looks forward to continuing to work with you to ensure payment adequacy for services provided in the ASC. Should you have any questions, please contact Camille Bonta, ASGE policy consultant, at cbonta@summithealthconsulting.com or (202) 320-3658.

Sincerely,

Steven A. Edmundowicz, MD, FASGE
President