



## ASGE Health Policy Update

October 2019

### GI Societies Submit Comments on the CY 2020 Proposed Payment Rules

On [August 30<sup>th</sup>](#) and [September 27<sup>th</sup>](#), ASGE, ACG, and AGA submitted comment letters to the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on the CY 2020 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Proposed Rule. Key issues addressed in the letters included:

- **Notification of Coinsurance for Colorectal Cancer Screening Tests:** CMS sought comment on whether the physician, or their staff, should be required to notify patients of the cost-sharing implications and Medicare coverage rules prior to performing a screening colonoscopy. The GI societies opposed this proposal on the basis that the solution to the gap in Medicare’s cost-sharing policy for a screening colonoscopy that turns diagnostic is not to place the burden of notifying beneficiaries of Medicare’s policy onto providers or their staff.
- **Removal of GI Measures from the Quality Payment Program:** The societies opposed CMS’ proposals to remove MIPS *Measure 343: Screening Colonoscopy Adenoma Detection Rate* and *Measure 185: Colonoscopy Interval for Patients with a History of Adenomatous Polyps – Avoidance of Inappropriate Use* from the program. The societies requested that these measures be maintained until meaningful alternatives can be developed.
- **Changes to E/M Office Visit Services:** CMS proposed several coding, payment, and documentation changes for office/outpatient E/M visits (CPT codes 99201-99205 (new patient) and 99211-99215 (established patient)). The societies voiced concern over the reimbursement cuts gastroenterology would likely face due to the budget-neutral redistribution of Medicare dollars. The societies also opposed GI being classified by CMS as a surgical specialty.

The final rule will be released in early November.

### ASGE Leaders Visit Capitol Hill

On September 24-25 the ASGE Health and Public Policy Committee (HPPC) held its biannual meeting in Washington, DC where the committee strategizes around implementation of the [ASGE Advocacy Agenda](#). The committee spent significant time discussing issues related to reimbursement, patient access, the Quality Payment Program, surprise billing, practice restrictions, and health care reform. The committee heard from Charlotte Pineda, Health Care Advisor for Rep. Roger Marshall, MD (R-KS). Rep. Marshall is a sponsor of the “Improving Seniors Timely Access to Care Act (H.R. 3107),” which ASGE



supports. This legislation would reduce unnecessary delays in care by streamlining and standardizing prior authorization under the Medicare Advantage program.

HPPC member met with almost 60 legislative offices where they discussed the following issues:

1. [Quality Payment Program Flexibility](#)
2. [Modernizing Stark Law](#)
3. [Improving Patient Access to Treatment](#)
4. [Medicare's Appropriate Use Criteria](#)
5. [Remove Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening](#)

### Take Action Now!

Help ASGE advocate on issues important GI patients and practice!

- [Urge Your Legislators to Cosponsor the Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Act](#)
- [Urge Congress to Support the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act](#)

### HPPC—Making ASGE's Voice Heard on Capitol Hill



Dr. Walter Park, HPPC Chair and  
Rep. Jerry McNerney (CA9-D).



Dr. Park and Rep. Tony Cardenas  
(CA29-D)



Dr. Neal Carlin with Erin Meegan, Legislative Director for Rep. Max Rose (NY11-D)



Dr. Robin Mendelsohn at Senator Chuck Schumer's Office (NY-D)



Dr. Naser Kahn with Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (IL8-D)