

UPDATE

neurosurgery

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Neurosurgeons Release 2019 Legislative and Regulatory Agenda

Prior authorization reform, medical liability reform, expanding support for GME remain among the top priorities

Washington, DC—Today, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) released their [2019 legislative and regulatory agenda](#), which includes health policy action items that neurosurgeons plan to advance with Congress and the Trump Administration.

Organized neurosurgery is pursuing the following priorities:

- **Protect patients' timely access to care** by reforming utilization review practices, such as prior authorization, step-therapy and Medicare's appropriate use criteria program for advanced diagnostic imaging.
- **Fix the broken medical liability system** by adopting proven reforms that are in place in California and Texas.
- **Improve the health care delivery system**, including maintaining existing insurance market reforms and advancing solutions that will lower costs and expand choice, including out-of-network options, with appropriate patient protections for unanticipated medical bills.
- **Support quality resident training and education** by increasing the number of Medicare-funded residency positions and preserving the ability of surgeons to maximize education and training opportunities within the profession's current regulatory structures.
- **Alleviate the burdens of electronic health records**, including promoting interoperability, reducing unnecessary data entry and improving the functionality of EHR systems to enhance, not hinder, the delivery of medical care.
- **Continue progress with medical innovation** by repealing the medical device tax and implementing the [21st Century Cures Act](#).
- **End the opioid epidemic** by implementing the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act ([SUPPORT Act](#)).
- **Champion fair reimbursement** by maintaining a viable fee-for-service option in Medicare and by empowering patients and physicians to privately contract fee arrangements. Additionally, Medicare must maintain the 10- and 90-day global surgery payment package and minimize the burdens associated with the global surgery code data collection initiative.

“As 2019 continues to unfold, the AANS and the CNS will continue to urge policymakers to take action on our top issues to ensure that our patients have timely access to high-quality neurosurgical care,” said **Ann R. Stroink, MD, FAANS**, a neurosurgeon from Bloomington, Ill., and chair of the AANS/CNS Washington Committee.

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The American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS), founded in 1931, and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), founded in 1951, are the two largest scientific and educational associations for neurosurgical professionals in the world. These groups represent over 8,000 neurosurgeons worldwide. Neurological surgery is the medical specialty concerned with the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of disorders that affect the entire nervous system, including the spinal column, spinal cord, brain and peripheral nerves. For more information, please visit www.aans.org or www.cns.org, read our blog www.neurosurgeryblog.org, follow us on [Twitter](#) or connect with us on [Facebook](#).