



## Sound Policy. Quality Care.

20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

December 3, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Senate Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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

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

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
House Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

### **RE: Urgent action needed to prevent Medicare payment cuts and maintain access to specialty care**

Dear Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Leader Hoyer, and Leader McCarthy:

Thank you for your leadership and your tireless efforts during this public health emergency. The Alliance of Specialty Medicine (the “Alliance”) represents more than 100,000 specialty physicians and is dedicated to the development of sound federal health care policy that fosters patient access to the highest quality specialty care. As patient and physician advocates, **we are urging you to act before the end of the year to prevent significant Medicare pay cuts**, which will impact many physician specialties effective January 1, 2021.

Based on changes to the codes for office and outpatient evaluation and management (E/M) services that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will implement on January 1 as part of its 2021 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) final rule, some specialties in the Alliance face cuts as high as 7% due to a statutory budget neutrality rule that requires any increases in Medicare payments

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American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive 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

to be offset by corresponding decreases. While our organizations participated in the process and support the improved values for these services, we are deeply concerned that these steep cuts could have serious financial consequences for physicians who are already under financial distress due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Furthermore, the Alliance has been among a multitude of medical stakeholders conveying serious concerns regarding anticipated reductions in Medicare payment to physicians through the formal notice-and-comment rulemaking process. Despite our pleas to to mitigate these cuts amidst the ongoing public health emergency, CMS made no substantive changes to address the inevitable adverse consequences that patients and providers will face in its recently released 2021 MPFS final rule. During the few short weeks that remain on the Congressional calendar, we urge you to act prior to January 1, 2021 to prevent these cuts and preserve Medicare beneficiaries' timely access to specialty care.

Thank you for your serious consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons  
American College of Mohs Surgery  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association  
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