Medicare physician payment reform

Why it’s important: Medicare and other insurers are making significant changes in physician payment systems, many of which hold promise to provide better support for coordinated, high-value care.

What we’re doing about it:
- Advocating for payment system changes that support improvements in care rather than simply add new administrative burdens
- Expanding payment model options for physicians in all specialties
- Developing simple, straightforward educational material to help physicians succeed under new payment models

Get involved/learn more: ama-assn.org/medicare-payment
Ending the opioid epidemic

**Why it’s important:** To end the opioid epidemic, patients need increased access to multidisciplinary pain care, as well as treatment for substance use disorders.

**What we’re doing about it:**
- Advocating to policymakers and payers to end prior authorization for medication-assisted treatment
- Working with payers to remove barriers to multidisciplinary pain care
- Providing physicians with specialty-specific educational resources on safe opioid prescribing and treatment
- Advocating for expanding access and coverage for treatment of substance use disorder

Get involved/learn more: end-opioid-epidemic.org

Drug pricing transparency

**Truth in Rx**

**Why it’s important:** The cost of prescription medication increases year after year due to an opaque system that prioritizes company profits over patient health. This system creates unnecessary barriers, puts treatment out of reach and worsens public health.

**What we’re doing about it:**
- Encouraging patients and physicians to share their stories about the impact of drug pricing
- Urging state medical associations to advance AMA model legislation to increase transparency on payers, pharmacy benefit managers and pharmaceutical manufacturers

Get involved/learn more: truthinrx.org

Insurer issues

**Why it’s important:** With increasing concentration in markets, payers continue to create short-sighted policies that do not consider the overall well-being of patients, undercut physicians’ ability to practice medicine and create waste in the system.

**What we’re doing about it:**
- Advocating directly to health insurers to change policies that adversely affect patients and physicians
- Urging insurers not to reduce payments for evaluation and management codes appropriately billed with CPT modifier 25
- Creating state legislative campaigns to address insurer practices and working with medical associations to enact new rules
- Working with regulators to enforce patient protections by ensuring they have the information, resources, and evidence base for their actions.
- Engaging with stakeholders outside of medicine to build broad coalitions to more effectively advocate for our objectives and counter payers’ objectives when they don’t benefit patients

Get involved/learn more: ama-assn.org/advocacy-resource-center

Telemedicine

**Why it’s important:** Digital health technology is changing the way physicians practice medicine and is improving public health.

**What we’re doing about it:**
- Modernizing state medical practice acts to lay the groundwork for adoption of telemedicine
- Promoting model legislation to ensure physicians are paid for the care they provide via telemedicine
- Facilitating license portability through support of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

Get involved/learn more: ama-assn.org/delivering-care/telemedicine-mobile-apps

IOWA MEDICAL SOCIETY
We fight for what’s right.

Anthem-Cigna merger

Because of unrelenting opposition by the American Medical Association, the Iowa Medical Society and physicians across the country, the Anthem-Cigna merger was defeated. We passionately opposed the merger because it was bad for you and your patients—and the courts agreed.

We won this battle, but we know there will be more. We are ready, whatever it takes, to keep fighting for you. Will you stand with us?

Join the AMA today—when we work together, the best outcome for patients and physicians can be achieved.

ama-assn.org/health-insurance-mergers
Prior authorization

Why it’s important: Prior authorization (PA) is often inefficient and lacks transparency. This costs physician practices time and money—and may also have negative consequences for patient outcomes when treatment is delayed.

Care Delays Associated With PA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9%</td>
<td>Never or rarely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46%</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44%</td>
<td>Often or always</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

90% report care delays

What we’re doing about it:

- Working directly with national partners (e.g., AHA, APHa, MGMA), the Federation and the insurance industry to “right-size” prior authorization
- Creating new resources (e.g., ePA video series) to help practices streamline prior authorization
- Pushing state legislation to address prior authorization and step therapy
- Advocating to national policymaking organizations (e.g., NCOIL, NAIC) for regulation of utilization management programs and entities
- Working to eliminate prior authorization requirements in alternative payment models involving financial risk for physicians
- Increasing awareness of the issue on our grassroots websites for patients and physicians

Get involved/learn more: ama-assn.org/prior-auth | patientsactionnetwork.org | physiciansgrassrootsnetwork.org

Regulatory relief

Why it’s important: Physicians spend two hours completing administrative tasks for every hour spent with their patients. This reduces patient access to care, causes physician burnout, decreases professional satisfaction, and increases costs to the system.

What we’re doing about it:

- Working to eliminate, streamline, align and simplify the many federal rules and regulations imposed on physicians
- Improving the usability of electronic health records, making practice data available to physicians and holding vendors accountable for their products
- Creating clear and concise educational resources for physicians to improve their understanding of issues relevant to their practice, such as cybersecurity

Get involved/learn more: ama-assn.org/delivering-care/cybersecurity

Scope of practice

Why it’s important: Patient health and well-being are threatened when health care practitioners are allowed to practice beyond their education, training or experience.

What we’re doing about it:

- Harnessing the power of organized medicine through the Scope of Practice Partnership
- Developing innovative advocacy tools and resources to deploy in state legislatures
- Compiling research on non-physician education, training and quality of care
- Giving grants to state medical associations to support scope of practice advocacy efforts

Get involved/learn more: ama-assn.org/about/scope-practice

Watch AMA President David O. Barbe, MD, MHA, talk more about these top health care issues at ama-assn.org/advocacy-issues