August 8, 2018

Dear AAN Member,

The AAN is fighting the recent proposed cuts to evaluation and management codes (E/M) in the proposed Medicare Physician Fee Schedule for 2019 that was recently issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Please help in putting enough pressure on CMS and Congress to abandon this harmful proposal before the final rule is published in November to help ensure you are fairly reimbursed for your work and your patients have the time they need for your expert care.

In its proposed rule for 2019, CMS suggests paying physicians $134 for each new E/M patient visit, regardless of complexity or length of visit, and $92 for each established patient visit. By collapsing several E/M codes into one, CMS offers to reduce some administrative burden, which typically we would welcome. But this “flattening” is not, in our estimation, worth the hurtful impact of reduced reimbursement.

We cannot let this stand. As soon as we learned of this proposed cut, we set our action plan into motion. The AAN is preparing its formal comments due to CMS by September 10. In Washington, DC, our advocacy and regulatory physician leaders and staff have launched a face-to-face campaign, pleading our case to lawmakers and regulators. To date, we have:

- Expressed our deep concerns to a top official at the Department of Health and Human Services about the impact of the proposed cuts on neurologists and their patients
- Allied with the American College of Rheumatology and the Community Oncology Alliance to raise awareness on Capitol Hill of the proposed cuts to E/M reimbursement
- Met with key staff and individual members of the House Energy & Commerce and Ways & Means Committees and the Senate Finance Committee, which have jurisdiction over CMS decisions that affect neurologists
- Advocated for members of the House and Senate to contact CMS in opposition to the proposed E/M cuts

As we continue to push back on this high level, I need you to get involved and speak out on a more personal level. You know how important—how valuable—your E/M time is with your patients. We cannot let CMS drive another wedge between you and the proper care your patients deserve. So, I am asking for your help:

- Submit your comments to Regulations.gov [search “CMS-1693-P”] on the personal impact of the proposed changes on you and your patients
- Watch for Action Alert emails from the AAN to help push lawmakers to support our position
- Use social media to communicate your concerns using #AANAdvocacy and #ProtectTimeWithPatients

We’re committed to keeping you informed; visit AAN.com/view/SpeakOutNow and read Capitol Hill Report for the latest information.

Together, we can put enough pressure on CMS and Congress to abandon this harmful proposal and help ensure you are fairly reimbursed for your important work and our patients receive the expert care they deserve.

Sincerely,

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