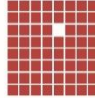




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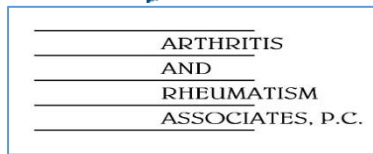
Maryland Chapter
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF
EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS



American Academy of Pediatrics



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December 10, 2018

The Honorable Larry Hogan, Governor
State of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Medicaid Reimbursement – Budget Priority for FY 2020

Dear Governor Hogan:

Congratulations on your re-election and thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to enhanced Medicaid rates for Evaluation and Management (E & M) Codes for physicians and other health care practitioners!

On behalf of the members of our respective organizations, we would like to voice our request for the reinstatement of Medicare parity for E & M Code reimbursement by restoring Medicaid rates to 100% of Medicare. You have been a strong and consistent ally with the health care practitioner community on a number of issues including Medicaid funding. We greatly appreciate the ongoing support of your Administration but want to express the strong belief that restoration of Medicaid reimbursement to full Medicare parity is essential.

Establishing Medicaid E & M Code reimbursement rates equivalent to Medicare rates was first adopted in FY 2013 to address both the expansion of health care to thousands of Marylanders and the significant lack of participation in the Medicaid program by Maryland physicians and other health care practitioners due to inadequate reimbursement. It is well recognized that adequate access to care is significantly constrained by lack of access to physician services. The enhanced reimbursement proved to be a success and physician participation in Medicaid significantly increased.

We strongly urge your Administration to include funding in the FY 2020 budget that would restore Medicaid E & M Codes billed by all physicians and other health care practitioners to 100% of Medicare. Restoration of rates to 100% of Medicare will improve efforts to overcome access to care challenges through increased practitioner participation and will preserve the cost-saving benefits attained through a greatly expanded practitioner network.

As the State implements the recently signed Total Cost of Care Model, it will be essential that we work to lower costs in all payer sectors, not just Medicare. Ensuring a robust and engaged Medicaid practitioner network is an essential element of that effort.

We clearly recognize you have been an ally on these objectives, and we look forward to working with you in the coming year to finally achieve reinstatement of Medicare parity and other related objectives. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Gene Ransom, Chief Executive Officer
The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi)

Orlee Panitch, M.D., President
Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (MDACEP)

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Montgomery County Medical Society (MCMS)

Padmini D. Ranasinghe, M.D., President
Baltimore City Medical Society (BCMS)

Harbhajan Ajrawat, M.D., President
Prince George’s County Medical Society (PGCMS)

Paul Celano, M.D., FACP, FASCO, President
Maryland/District of Columbia Society of Clinical Oncology (MDCSCO)

Mangla Gulati, M.D., Governor
Maryland Chapter American College of Physicians (ACP)

Omid Moayed, M.D., President
US Anesthesia Partners – Maryland (USAP)

Matthew L. Snyder, M.D., Managing Partner
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Kelly McGuigan M.D., President
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Maryland Society of Anesthesiologists (MSA)

Patrick T. Triplett, M.D., President
Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS)

Darren Patz, Chief Government Affairs Officer
Mednax Health Solutions Partner, American Anesthesiology, and Pediatrix Medical Group

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Robert S. Sterling, M.D., President
Maryland Orthopaedic Association (MOA)

Nicholas P. Grosso, M.D., Chairman of the Board and President
Maryland Patient Care and Access Coalition (MPCAC)

cc: Robert R. Neall, Secretary, MDH
Dennis Schrader, Chief Operating Officer and Medicaid Director, MDH
Chris Shank, Chief Legislative Officer, Office of the Governor
David Brinkley, Secretary, Department of Budget and Management.