



November 5, 2019

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

RE: Medicaid Reimbursement – Budget Priority for FY 2021

Dear Governor Hogan:

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to the health care practitioner community. While we greatly appreciate the work that you and your Administration have done to support us by lessening fees and reducing administrative burdens, we must express our strong belief that restoration of Medicaid E&M reimbursement codes to full Medicare parity is essential.

Establishing Medicaid E&M reimbursement codes 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 medical services. The enhanced rate proved to be a success and health care practitioner participation in Medicaid significantly increased.

A full investment in Medicaid parity will support the work of the physician and health care practitioner workforce that is treating our State's most fragile and at-risk population. The return on this investment will result in more care being delivered in the community, the avoidance of unnecessary hospital utilization, and further alignment of the State's Total Cost of Care health care delivery system. Ensuring a robust and engaged Medicaid health care practitioner network is an essential element of that effort.

We strongly urge your Administration to include funding in the FY 2021 budget that would restore Medicaid E&M reimbursement 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.

We clearly recognize you have been an ally on these objectives, and we look forward to working with you in the upcoming year to finally achieve full reinstatement of Medicaid E&M reimbursement codes to Medicare rates and other related objectives. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi)

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cc: Robert R. Neall, Secretary, MDH  
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Chris Shank, Chief Legislative Officer, Office of the Governor  
Diane Croghan, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor  
David Brinkley, Secretary, Department of Budget and Management