



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,

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)

Robert Atlas, M.D., FACOG, Chairman
Maryland Section of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (MDACOG)

Maria Karapelou Brown, M.D., EdM, FAAP, President
Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP)

Francisco A. Ward, D.O., President
Baltimore County Medical Association (BCMA)

Lawrence J. Green, M.D., President
Montgomery County Medical Society (MCMS)

Thomas L. Edmondson, M.D., President
Baltimore City Medical Society (BCMS)

Clement S. Banda, M.D., President
Anne Arundel & Howard County Medical Society (AAHCMS)

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
Associates in Radiation Medicine (ARM)

Kelly McGuigan, M.D., President
Maryland Dermatologic Society (MDS)

Haitham Al-Grain, M.D., President
Maryland Society of Anesthesiologists (MSA)

Marsden H. McGuire, M.D., President
Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS)

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

Jonathan Walsh, M.D., President
Maryland Society of Otolaryngology (MSO)

Deanna Bridge Najera, MPAS, PA-C, DFAAPA, President
The Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants (MAPA)

Angelo Falcone, M.D., FACEP, President USACS East and Mountain
US Acute Care Solutions (USACS)

Mary Kay DeMarco, PhD, RN, CNE, President
Maryland Nurses Association (MNA)

Herbert S.B. Baraf, MD, FACP, MACR, Managing Partner
Arthritis and Rheumatism Associates, P.C.

Beverly Lang, MScN, RN, ANP-BC, FAANP, Executive Director
Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland Inc. (NPAM)

Scott McGovern, 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)

Dennis Dey, M.D., President
Allegany County Medical Society

Stanley Lambert, M.D., President
Garrett County Medical Society

Mitesh Kothari, M.D., President
Washington County Medical Society

Brian De Muth, M.D., President
Cecil County Medical Society

Christian Jensen, M.D., President
Caroline County Medical Society

Alan Weinstein, M.D., President
Talbot County Medical Society

Gary Sprouse, M.D., President
Queen Anne's County Medical Society

Michael Murphy, M.D., President
Wicomico County Medical Society

Richard Cirillo, M.D., President
Calvert County Medical Society

Richard Cook, M.D., President
Charles County Medical Society

cc: Robert R. Neall, Secretary, MDH
Dennis Schrader, Chief Operating Officer and Medicaid Director, MDH
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