Alliance of Specialty Medicine

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April 4, 2014

RE: Co-sign Letter to CMS Urging Transparency in Rule-Making Process

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Alliance of Specialty Medicine (the Alliance), a coalition of medical specialty societies representing more than 100,000 physicians and surgeons, we write to request that you cosign a letter to the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Marilyn Tavenner, being circulated by Representative Bill Cassidy urging transparency in CMS' annual rulemaking process for the Medicare physician fee schedule (MPFS).

For your reference, we have included a Dear Colleague letter from Rep. Cassidy, as well as a draft letter to CMS Administrator Marilyn Tavenner. The letter to Administrator Tavenner urges CMS to publish changes in relative values for physician services identified through the misvalued code initiative in the MPFS proposed rule, rather than simultaneously announcing and implementing these changes in the final rule.

The lack of transparency in CMS' current process adversely impacts many stakeholders, including Medicare beneficiaries and providers reimbursed under Medicare's physician fee schedule. Representative Cassidy's letter simply asks CMS to announce changes in relative values for physician fee service services stemming from the misvalued code initiative in the proposed rule. This will allow interested stakeholders an opportunity to provide meaningful and substantive comment in advance of implementation, as well as afford stakeholders a more reasonable amount of time to prepare for potential changes in provider payments and beneficiary co-pays.

I hope that you will take a moment to review the attached letters, and that you will consider signing on to the letter to Administrator Tavenner. Please contact Rep. Cassidy or Robb Walton of his staff (robb.walton@mail.house.gov) to sign on the letter. **The deadline to sign on is Friday, April 11, 2014**.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American College of Mohs Surgery
American Gastroenterological Association
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
American Society of Echocardiography
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Urological Association
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
North American Spine Society
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions
Society for Excellence in Eyecare