

Resolution 18-409
CMS Reduction of Evaluation and Management Reimbursement
 American College of Physicians, Florida Chapter

1 Whereas, The quality of care delivered to and the wellbeing of the patient is the primary goal of a
 2 physician, and a physician needs to be able to provide this care for the patients without the stress of
 3 needing to see “too many patients” to be financially viable, especially highly complex patients that
 4 qualify for a high Relative Value Unit of care; and
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6 Whereas, The proposed CMS revision of the Evaluation and Management (E/M) reimbursement, doing
 7 away with enhanced reimbursement for the CPT codes for 4 upper levels of care, with the purported
 8 reasoning that it is simplifying documentation requirements, while really using it as a means of
 9 decreasing reimbursement for providers who care for the very sick and complex elderly with multiple
 10 medical problems needing time and constant addressing (ie., high RVU patients); and
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12 Whereas, The physician reimbursement in total is roughly 15% or less of the entire healthcare budget
 13 (CMS and AMA reports include “physician and clinical expenses” as a sum of ~20% but other reports
 14 have it less than 15%) and has not been adjusted for inflation for many years; and
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16 Whereas, The proposed E/M reimbursement economically discourages the physician from providing a
 17 higher level of care; and
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19 Whereas, This could also have a very significant effect in diminishing the numbers of medical students
 20 going into primary care specialties which rely heavily on these CPT codes and the patient population
 21 needs; therefore, be it
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23 **RESOLVED**, That the Florida Medical Association work diligently with the AMA and to write a letter from
 24 FMA to CMS urging CMS to rescind the proposed E/M cuts and even propose a payment system with the
 25 focus on increasing payment while decreasing documentation requirements that, if not corrected, could
 26 ultimately adversely affect our primary goal of quality care for the patient.

Fiscal Note:

Description	Amount	Budget Narrative
20 staff hours	\$1,195	Can be accomplished with current staff
Total	\$1,195	\$0 added to the operating budget

Fiscal notes are an estimate of the cost to implement a given Resolution. All Resolutions that are adopted by the House of Delegates will be referred to the FMA Committee on Finance and Appropriations for fiscal consideration.

Reference Committee: IV – Medical Economics