

Resolution 18-410
Support for the CMS Proposal to Overhaul E/M Service Payments
Jon Ward, MD

1 Whereas, On July 12th CMS issued a proposed rule to simplify the E/M codes from 5 levels to 2 levels;
2 and
3
4 Whereas, Primary care physicians and certain specialists receive additional reimbursement for their
5 visits; and
6
7 Whereas, Much of a physicians' history, physical, and review of systems may be superfluous and may
8 involve checking boxes to get a level higher than is needed for the patient's care on that particular visit;
9 and
10
11 Whereas, There is a significant physician workflow shortage and physicians could receive better
12 reimbursement while seeing more patients, relieving the backflow of patients and improve
13 reimbursements; and
14
15 Whereas, Scribing and medical billing are significant expenses to medical practices and the E/M coding is
16 the most complicated to both document and bill; and
17
18 Whereas, Many physicians are over-relying on their EMR to self code, a practice that is not only frowned
19 upon but can lead to expensive insurance and medicare clawbacks; and
20
21 Whereas, This system can allow specialists to focus on their specific area of expertise and primary care
22 physicians to simply address the patients' general concern that day; and
23
24 Whereas, Physicians that don't have an EMR could also be big beneficiaries of this change as they deal
25 with the complexities of charting without a system designed to click your way to a level 5; and
26
27 Whereas, For the first time in my career, CMS has proposed something that will make my life easier and
28 improve reimbursement; therefore be it
29
30 RESOLVED, That the FMA write a letter of support to CMS regarding this overhaul of the payment
31 system; and further be it
32
33 RESOLVED, That the FMA also urge the AMA to support this overhaul of the E/M payment system.

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