

Dear ENT Advocacy Network Member:

April 30, 2021

Legislative and political activity directly affects our practices and our patients. As a leading advocate for otolaryngology-head and neck surgery, we hope you enjoy reading this edition of *The ENT Advocate*, your premier source of advocacy information for the specialty!

**AAO-HNS Applauds Prohibition of Menthol Cigarettes and Flavored Cigars
Statement from James C. Denny III, MD, Executive Vice President and CEO**

The American Academy of Otolaryngology ±Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS)

On April 14 President Biden signed legislation ([H.R. 1868](#)) into law to eliminate the scheduled 2% across-the-board cut to all Medicare payments, known as sequestration, until the end of 2021. The Academy thanks our Congressional champions for shepherding this legislation into law, as well as members of the ENT Advocacy 1 HWZR UN IRU UHVSRQGLQJ WR RXU 3 & DOO WR \$ FW LHS will continue to support its Congressional advocacy efforts to ensure fair Medicare reimbursement for practicing otolaryngologist-head and neck surgeons.

AAO-HNS Supports PREVENT HPV Cancers Act

The AAO-HNS offered its strong endorsement of [H.R. 1550](#) WKH 3 3URPRWLQJ 5HVRXUFHV WR ([S (GXFDWLRQ DQG 1HZ 7UHDWPHQWV IRU +39 & DQFHUV \$FW ' QHZ OHJLVQ Representatives Kathy Castor (D-FL) and Kim Schrier, MD, (D- : \$ 7KH 335(9(17 +39 & DQFHUV \$FW create a CDC-run national public awareness campaign to increase HPV vaccination rates, increase funding at the National Cancer Institute to conduct research on HPV-associated cancers, and give states additional resources to improve their immunization information systems.

All Politics Is Local

Participate with 174 of your colleagues in the voluntary State Trackers program. The AAO-HNS monitoring system helps you keep track of the pertinent legislation that is occurring in your state and allows you to advocate on topics such as scope of practice, licensure compacts, prior authorization, LEAD-K, CMV, and a myriad of other legislation that affects you, your patients, and your profession. Simply let us know you are interest by sending your name and email address to legstate@entnet.org. We look forward to working with you!

Medicare Open Payments Program Year 2020 Data Review Period Now Open

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has opened the [pre-publication review and dispute period](#) for its Open Payment national disclosure program. Physician review of the data is voluntary, but strongly encouraged. Disputes must be initiated by May 15 to be reflected in the June 2021 data publication. Please note that registration in the Open Payments system is required to participate in review and dispute activities.

CMS Updates List of Covered Telehealth Services

On April 7 the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released an [updated list of services reimbursable via telehealth](#). The updated list includes tympanometry, audiometry, speech therapy, cochlear implant follow-ups, and other codes commonly used by AAO-HNS members and their practices. While some of these codes are included on telehealth list permanently, many are only reimbursable via telehealth until the end of the year in which the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency ends.

CMS Releases New 2021 Quality Payment Program Resources

On April 22 the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) made several new [Quality Payment Program \(QPP\) resources available to clinicians](#). These resources include a Performance Year 2021 Merit-based Incentive Payment Systems (MIPS) user guide, MIPS Measures and Activities Specialty Guides, Medicare

eustachian tube dysfunction. Cigna joins other national payers, such as Highmark and Blue Cross Blue Shield Federal Employee Program, in covering this procedure performed by otolaryngologist-head and neck surgeons for select patients.

New Congress, New Contacts to Strengthen PROJECT 535

Successful legislative advocacy starts with a solid grassroots foundation. Given the ambitious legislative agenda for the 117th Congress,