

Dear ENT Advocacy Network Member:

December 3, 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!

Ask Congress to Stop Medicare Reimbursement Cuts

Unless Congress intervenes before the end of the year, physicians are facing a 9.75% Medicare reimbursement reduction on January 1, 2022. U.S. Representatives Ami Bera, MD (D-CA), and Larry Bucshon, MD (R-IN), leading Congressional champions on physician issues, have introduced legislation, H.R. 6020, to avert these scheduled Medicare c

ENT PAC is an invaluable tool that strengthens the Academy's overall legislative advocacy efforts. We understand the importance of providing transparency and a greater understanding about how decisions are made regarding the specialty's political action committee. Therefore, in 2018 ENT PAC launched a new quarterly report titled "Your PAC Dollars at Work." [View your "Q3 PAC Dollars at Work"](#) summarizing ENT PAC activities to date in 2021. To invest in the future of the specialty, click [here](#)!

CMS Releases 2022 Physician Fee Schedule/Quality Payment Program Final Rule

On November 2, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) [released a final rule](#) implementing changes to the Physician Fee Schedule and Quality Payment Program for 2022. The regulation includes new values for hypoglossal nerve stimulation and drug-induced sleep endoscopy, procedures commonly performed by otolaryngologist-head and neck surgeons. The agency heeded the Academy's concerns regarding proposed updates to clinical labor pricing. In the final rule, CMS opted to phase in the changes over a four-year period. CMS also revised its proposals on critical care services. The agency will not bundle the services with other unrelated procedures next year. As expected, the 2022 fee schedule does not address the scheduled 9.75% cut to all physician services effective January 1, 2022. The AAO-HNS will continue to urge Congress to seek immediate action to reverse these cuts before the end of the year as well as to address long-term

payment year, unless they submit data for two or more categories or have a higher final score from group or APM entity participation.

Action Requested

New Volunteers Needed to Strengthen PROJECT 535

Successful legislative advocacy starts with a solid grassroots foundation. Given Congressional focus on legislation addressing health policy and physician reimbursement in the 117th Congress, it's now more important than ever for the Academy to strengthen its key contacts network via PROJECT 535. In addition to the Academy's overall advocacy efforts, PROJECT 535 volunteers help reinforce our message by establishing personal relationships with federal elected officials. Federal lawmakers want to hear from YOU—their physician constituents! The commitment is minimal, but the impact is immense. To help further strengthen our collective advocacy efforts, [sign up](#) today or contact govtaffairs@entnet.org for more information.

Sincerely,

Yolanda L. Troublefield, MD, JD
BOG Legislative Affairs Committee Chair
and the AAO-HNS Advocacy Team

If you no longer wish to receive important legislative and political updates via *The ENT Advocate*, please reply to this email with CANCEL ADVOCATE in the subject line.

For more information, contact govtaffairs@entnet.org. Don't forget to bookmark [The ENT Advocate!](#)

*Contributions to ENT PAC are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Contributions are voluntary, and all members of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery have the right to refuse to contribute without reprisal. Federal law prohibits ENT PAC from accepting contributions from foreign nationals. By law, if your contributions are made using a personal check or credit card, ENT PAC may use your contribution only to support candidates in federal elections. All corporate contributions to ENT PAC will be used for educational and administrative fees of ENT PAC, and other activities permissible under federal law. Federal law requires ENT PAC to use its best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation, and the name of the employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year.

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