

December 23, 2021



## President's Holiday Message: Dr. Leslie Algase



*'Twas the second year of COVID and all through the house,  
Not a creature was stirring, well maybe a mouse.  
Internists were in the office providing medical care,  
While their hospital colleagues had more than they could bear.  
The patients were nestled all snug on their vents.  
Why? With vaccines, this doesn't make sense!  
Nurses were tired (no longer wear caps),  
We docs persisted, surviving on naps.  
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,  
Reminding us that what we do everyday matters.  
Away to the window I flew with a flash,  
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.  
The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow,  
Gave a luster of mid-day to objects below.  
When what to my wondering eyes should appear,  
A vision of Fauci, perhaps hope is near!  
Perhaps you can gather, he said with a smile.  
With masks and vaccines, you can stay for a while.  
Take good care of each other and remember ACP  
Is here to support us, both you and me!  
I won't do the part where we name the reindeer,  
But instead wish you all a happy new year!*

## National Snapshot - Updates on the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule

By Christina D'Agostino, MD, PGY3, StonyBrook

Amidst the stress of the pandemic and the rise of the Omicron variant, we are once again reminded of the importance of quality primary care clinicians and services. In the face of [financial uncertainty](#), primary care



practices rely on adequate reimbursement rates, wages, and pricing in order to thrive. This article will provide several updates regarding the policy changes for the Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) issued in the [final ruling](#) by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) that will go into effect January 1, 2022.

First on the docket to discuss is the update for increasing clinical labor pricing (CLP). Medicare uses CLP to gauge what proportion of a practice's expenses is geared toward staff salaries (nurses, medical assistants, etc). CLP, along with two other components (medical supplies and equipment), are considered "direct practice expense inputs" and are "budget neutral", meaning that an increase in one sector typically means decrease in reimbursement for the others. The equipment and supply pricing sectors have previously been updated (2019-2022). However, it has been almost 20 years since CLP has been updated (data currently being used is from the 2002 Bureau of Labor Statistics). With this new update, data from the 2019 Bureau of Labor Statistics will be taken into account and pricing will be adjusted accordingly over the 2022-2025 year period.

Telehealth became an important tool during the pandemic, allowing clinicians to treat patients while also protecting them from unnecessary exposure to COVID-19. CMS will retain all services currently covered under the Medicare telehealth services list on a Category 3 (i.e. temporary) basis until the end of calendar year 2023. It remains to be seen if these services will be permanently added after the pandemic. Otherwise, in good news for primary care, CMS is increasing the valuation of certain codes for chronic care management (CCM) and principle care management (PCM). It is also increasing payment rates for administration of influenza, pneumococcal, and hepatitis B vaccines (from approximately \$17 to \$30).

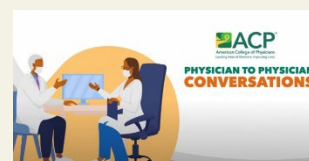
On the downside, CMS set the 2022 conversion factor (amount paid per RVU) at \$33.59 (\$1.30 less than 2021). This decrease is attributed to the expiration of a 3.75% increase in the 2021 conversion factor, which has since not been renewed.

The above updates are just a few of the many in the CMS final ruling for 2022; a more in-depth summary of all of the final updates is available [here](#).

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### ACP and YouTube Have Partnered to Stop the Spread of Misinformation: We Need Your Help to Amplify the Word!

ACP has developed a series of videos on [ACP's YouTube Channel](#) to help combat misinformation about COVID-19, various vaccines, and related treatments. The video series – some of which are also available in Spanish -- features internists and includes:



- [Physician to Physician Conversations](#) – Practical communication strategies to help physicians and other healthcare professionals build vaccine confidence and address patient concerns that may be rooted in misinformation.
- [Ask Your Internist](#) – Helps answer vaccination-related patient questions using trusted, evidence-based information in the clinicians' voice.

Read our [press release](#) announcing the partnership.

## How You Can Help

[<<Read More>>](#)

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### ACP launches new mentoring program to foster career development for mentors and mentees

The College's Mentoring Resource Library is now available for all members, and a monthly online Peer Mentoring Session series is specifically geared toward early-career physicians and ACP Resident/Fellow Members.



ACP's new mentoring program consists of a robust [Mentoring Resource Library](#) and monthly online peer mentoring sessions. The Mentoring Resource Library is now available for all members to access videos, self-assessment checklists, action plans, and other tools developed to help maintain successful mentee and mentor relationships.

The monthly online Peer Mentoring Session series is specifically geared toward early-career physicians and ACP Resident/Fellow Members to advance leadership skills. Shikha Jain, MD, FACP, will present the first virtual mentoring session discussing physician leadership on Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022, from 8 to 9 p.m. ET. Following Dr. Jain's presentation, participants will break into small groups to discuss the topic, engage in peer mentoring, and network with their colleagues.

[Registration for session one](#) is available online now.



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### Transition Care Management Codes - You're doing the work...why not get paid for it?

By Paula E. Lester, MD, FACP, CMD; Chair of Geriatrics Task Force, NYACP

Health care providers know that time spent reviewing records of a patient's acute hospital stay or prolonged subacute rehabilitation stay and coordinating care after discharge is imperative to providing quality care to patients with comorbidities and complicated medical encounters. The time spent on these important endeavors is under-valued and historically not reimbursed. However, in 2020, the Medicare payment model was updated to provide reimbursement of transition care management (TCM) codes for non-face-to-face care provided when patients transition from an acute care setting back into the community.

This is huge progress in compensation of work that Geriatricians and other providers who care for older adults have been doing unpaid for decades! As clinicians, we should use these codes

whenever appropriate – to be paid for valuable work – and to ensure these billing codes are not removed due to lack of use.

Implementing a strategy in your practice to use the TCM codes requires minor planning without being overwhelming. [<<Read More>>](#)



## Apply for Fellowship by 12/31 to be considered for Convocation Ceremony participation at ACP's Internal Medicine Meeting 2022.

Celebrate the exemplary care you've given to patients during an extremely challenging year. Throughout it all, you continued to provide tremendous care, support, and leadership to the community in which you live and practice. You deserve to be recognized.

[Watch the video](#) to learn more about what it means to be an FACP®.

Then [use this handy chart](#) to identify whether you're ready to apply.

[Apply by 12/31](#)

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## [Upcoming Events](#)

### Small Feedings of the Soul: Readings and Reflections Thursday, January 20, 2022/ 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Explore the practice of medicine through shared experiences! Come for discussion, camaraderie, and to meet authors of select pieces from 'On Being A Doctor'.



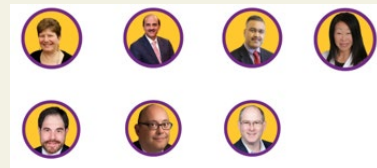
Facilitated by: Angel 'Lito' Gutierrez, MD, FACP  
Program Directors: Nandini Anandu, MD, FACP, Lynn Cleary, MD, MACP, and Cori Salvit, MD, FACP

## [Registration](#)

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### Special NYACP Early Career Physician Workshop: An Interactive Discussion with NYACP Governors Tuesday, January 25, 2022/ 6:00 - 7:30 pm

We hope you will join us for an interactive discussion with [NYACP Governors](#) as they share their leadership journey in medicine!



## **Agenda**

6:00- 6:30 pm – Governors Panel -Intro and Discussion

6:35 – 7:20 pm – Leaders will rotate through the breakout rooms to dialogue and answer questions from ECPTF and members in the room

7:20 – 7:30 pm- Breakout Room recap

### **Register in advance for this meeting**

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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### **Small Feedings of the Soul: Readings and Reflections** **Thursday, February 17, 2022/ 7:00 -8:00 pm**

Explore the practice of medicine through shared experiences! Come for discussion, camaraderie, and to meet authors of select pieces from 'On Being A Doctor'.

Facilitated by: Lynn Cleary, MD, MACP

Program Directors: Nandini Anandu, MD, FACP, Lynn Cleary, MD, MACP, and Cori Salvit, MD, FACP

### **Registration**

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### **Small Feedings of the Soul: Readings and Reflections** **Thursday, March 17, 2022/ 7:00 - 8:00 pm**

Facilitated by: Lynn Cleary, MD, MACP

Program Directors: Nandini Anandu, MD, FACP, Lynn Cleary, MD, MACP, and Cori Salvit, MD, FACP

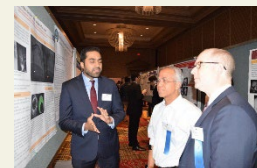
### **Registration**

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## **2022 NYACP Resident and Medical Student Forum**

**Friday, May 27, 2022**

Join us on Friday, May 27, 2022 as we return to an in-person poster competition and welcome back Dr.'s Dilemma!



Crowne Plaza/Desmond  
660 Albany Shaker Rd  
Albany, NY 12211

[Call for Abstracts](#)

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## Save the Date!

2022 NYACP Annual Scientific Meeting  
Saturday, November 5, 2022



Join us as we return to an in-person Annual Scientific Meeting on Saturday, November 5, 2022.

Westchester Marriott  
670 White Plains Rd  
Tarrytown, NY 10591

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