

April 16, 2015

## Advocacy

### SGR Repeal Passes U.S. Senate, Now on President's Desk

The Senate followed the House of Representatives in passing comprehensive legislation to repeal Medicare's Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula and transition physicians to a new value-based payment system. This action comes on the heels of an overwhelming show of support in the House, where both Republicans and Democrats voted in favor of H.R. 2 on March 26. President Obama is expected to sign the bill immediately, which will avert a 21 percent Medicare payment cut from taking effect.

Highlights of the H.R. 2 legislation include:

- The SGR is permanently repealed, effective immediately; reversing the 21 percent SGR cut that went into effect on April 1.
- Positive payment updates of 0.5 percent are provided for four-and-a-half years, through 2019.
- Current quality incentive and payment programs are consolidated and streamlined into a new Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS), and the aggregate level of financial risk to practices from penalties has been mitigated in comparison to current law.
- Physicians in alternative payment models (APMs) receive a 5 percent bonus from 2019-2024.
- Strong incentives are created for physicians to participate in qualified Patient Centered Medical Homes (PCMHs), an innovative model of care that has been shown to improve outcomes, patient experience, and reduced costs. Physicians in qualified PCMHs will get the highest possible score for the practice improvement category in the new MIPS program. PCMHs that have demonstrated to HHS the capability to improve quality without increasing costs, or lower costs without harming quality, can also qualify as an APM without having to accept direct financial risk.
- Technical support is provided for smaller practices, funded at \$20 million per year from 2016 to 2020, to help them participate in APMs or the new MIPS program.
- Funding is provided for quality measure development, at \$15 million per year from 2015 to 2019. Physicians retain their preeminent role in developing quality standards.

In addition, H.R. 2 provides continued funding of the National Health Services Corps, Community Health Centers, Teaching Health Centers, and the Children's Health Insurance Program, programs that are especially important to ensuring patient access to primary care.

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**Today, April 16<sup>th</sup> is National Healthcare Decisions Day - Get Involved!**

The New York Chapter ACP, along with other national, state and community organizations, is participating in a massive effort to highlight the importance of advance healthcare decision-making—an effort that has culminated in the formal designation of April 16 as National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD). Although several states



have engaged in advance directives awareness events and numerous organizations have devoted substantial time and money to improving education about advance healthcare planning, only a small minority of Americans has executed an advance directive.

To find out more, you can access the NHDD website ([nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org](http://nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org)), which contains information and tools for the public to talk about future healthcare decisions and execute written advance directives (healthcare power of attorney and living wills) in accordance with their applicable state laws.

For New York State, the Department of Health has a website of resources including the Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) form. The DOH has created an [informational portal](#) that contains a wealth of information on advanced care decisions, including legal requirements checklists, frequently asked questions, and guidance documents.

Be sure to help educate your patients on end of life decisions on this Recognition Day and every day!

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## Practice Management

### Please participate in a Chapter supported survey on Physician Burnout and Coping

The NYACP and our local Capital District leaders invite you to complete a brief survey on *physician burnout and coping*. As we face many changes to the practice of medicine in New York, we know that many of our members are frustrated by requirements to improve outcomes, transform practice without interoperable information technology, new regulatory rules and endless legislative mandates. We would like to assess the extent of physician burnout and consider attitudes and practices that may be helpful to minimize the stresses leading to burnout. The survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete.

We realize that everyone is busy, but we believe this brief questionnaire is important. The study is anonymous and no personal identifying data will be collected. Our plan is to share these findings in our Spring 2016 ACP plenary meeting and in other forums to engender discussion amongst physicians, including residents and medical students.

Kindly follow this link for access: [https://yalesurvey.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_6Wik2exf1M8C1Sd](https://yalesurvey.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_6Wik2exf1M8C1Sd)

This study has been approved by Yale's Human Investigation Committee (HIC # 1412015037). If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact the investigator, Benjamin Doolittle ([benjamin.doolittle@yale.edu](mailto:benjamin.doolittle@yale.edu), or 203.785.7941). If you would like to talk with someone other than the researchers to discuss problems, concerns, and questions you may have concerning this research, or to discuss your rights as a research subject, you may contact the Yale Human Subjects Committee at (203) 785-4688.

Many thanks for your participation.

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### MLMIC 5% Dividend For NYACP Members!

Medical Liability Mutual Insurance Company (MLMIC), the Chapter's endorsed medical liability insurance provider, has announced that their Board of Directors recently approved a **5 percent dividend for all MLMIC policyholders insured as of May 1, 2015**. This dividend comes on the heels of the 7.5% special dividend that was recently distributed to policyholders. The 2015 dividend will be issued on July 1 to physicians, extenders, hospitals and other healthcare facilities that maintain continuous coverage through July 1.



The payment of dividends when fiscally prudent is just one element that sets MLMIC apart from other medical liability carriers. Because MLMIC is a mutual insurer, policyholders are the Company's owners. MLMIC is a company run *by* physicians, hospitals and dentists *for* physicians, hospitals and dentists.

MLMIC remains committed to policyholder-first service. For more information, please call: (888) 793-0393 (physicians)

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## ***Education***

### **Dates to Remember for Program/Clerkship Directors, Residents/Fellows and Medical Students:**

**Annual NYACP Medical Student Event - Wednesday, September 16, 2015**  
(6:00 pm - 8:00 pm)

New York University Langone Medical Center  
550 First Avenue  
New York City, NY 10016

Medical Students will have a special educational session to assist them in preparing for selection of their residency training program. All IM residency programs will be invited to display an exhibit table to share information on their programs with 3rd and 4th year medical students.

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**NYACP Resident/Fellow and Medical Student Forum:  
Our Annual Poster Competition and Dr's Dilemma Competition**  
**Saturday, November 14, 2015 (8:30 am- 1:30 pm)**

SUNY Upstate Medical University - Institute for Human Performance  
Building (IHA)  
505 Irving Avenue  
Syracuse, NY 13210

This half day event will include the Fall Poster Competition in the morning, followed by an educational session and concluding with the Annual Dr's Dilemma Competition. If your team would like to participate in the Dr's Dilemma competition, please complete this [Dr's Dilemma Team Form](#). Up to 16 teams will be selected on a first come-first serve basis.



#### ***Dates to Note:***

- April 27: Online abstract submission forms will be open at Residents/Fellows and Medical Students
  - July 31: Online submissions closed at 5:00 pm
  - Sept. 25: Results to Program Directors
  - November 14: Resident and Medical Student Forum
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## Are you a Resident or Medical Student interested in becoming more involved in the NY Chapter ACP?

We are looking for qualified, enthusiastic members who want to participate in the NYACP Resident and Medical Student Committees. The Committees meet as needed to plan and execute educational and service programs for Resident and Medical Student members. If interested, please email Karen Tucker at [ktucker@nyacp.org](mailto:ktucker@nyacp.org)

What do you gain?

- Involvement with the Chapter from the beginning of your career
  - An opportunity to network with and be mentored by physician Masters, Fellows and Members
  - Include NYACP committee assignment on your CV
  - Fast track for advancement
  - Opportunities to serve in leadership Chapter and National ACP
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