NEWS YOU NEED NOW





We are pleased to bring you this new Health Policy special edition of ASNC's Flashpoint newsletter. The following articles will update you on several

Dear Colleagues,

issues that ASNC's advocacy team is carefully monitoring and addressing. We expect our work on some of these issues may escalate in the coming weeks. If this occurs, we will announce calls to action to ASNC members

respond quickly when we need you to amplify ASNC's messages to legislators, policymakers, and payers. Please contact us at info@ASNC.org if you have questions or concerns. As David Wolinsky, MD, MASNC

ASNC Health Policy Committee Chair

HEALTH POLICY NEWS

CY2022 Medicare Proposed Rules Contain 'Mixed Bag'

for Nuclear Cardiology Reimbursement

Since the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the CY2022 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) and the Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (HOPPS) proposed rules in July, ASNC analysts have thoroughly reviewed the documents and concluded the implications for nuclear cardiology are mixed.

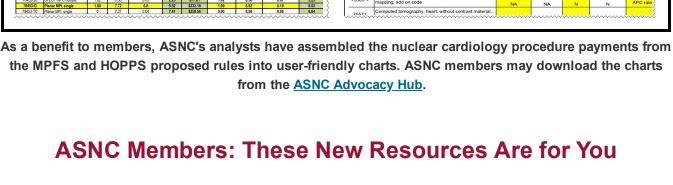
and fairly reimburses the clinical complexity and work involved in the services that nuclear cardiologists provide in the outpatient department. In contrast, ASNC is very disappointed that MPFS proposed rates would cut SPECT MPI payments by as much as 12 percent. This proposed cut is caused by changes to both the conversion factor and practice expense

inputs. ASNC's response to CMS will address both issues and explain why the cut is unacceptable.

On behalf of ASNC members, the Health Policy Committee is pleased that the HOPPS proposed rule recognizes

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NEW ASNC TOOLS



proposed rule lists rates to be paid for services in the hospital outpatient department. To aid members with planning for possible reimbursement shifts to nuclear cardiology services, the ASNC advocacy team has developed two charts compiling CY2021 reimbursement rates compared to the CY2022 proposed rule

Want access to these charts? JOIN ASNC NOW.

DOWNLOAD CHARTS

It is important to note that the CY2022 proposed rule reimbursement rates listed in these charts are not final. CY2022 rates will be finalized in late 2021 when CMS releases the MPFS and HOPPS final rules. Stay tuned to ASNC for

New Video Reveals Why Ambulatory Payment Classification

Changes Could Impact Your Reimbursement

HEALTH POLICY 101

ASNC (%)

HEALTH POLICY

new video. WATCH NOW. ASNC's Health Policy 101 video series continues with a new episode focused on an issue many clinicians mistakenly believe they can leave to their administrative staff. Why does it matter which ambulatory payment classification (APC) "bucket" your services are housed in? How could a reclassification have drastic effects on the payments you receive for your services? Learn the answers to these and more APC questions from ASNC President Randall C. Thompson, MD, FASNC. **WATCH NOW**

AUC MANDATE NEWS

CMS Proposes Further AUC Program Delay;

costs that Congress would need to offset; however, ASNC believes there are solid reasons to be optimistic. In our latest **ASNC.org blog**, we explain why.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Seeking Solutions to Ease Prior Auth Burden,

ASNC Supports New Texas Law

ASNC remains committed to identifying ways to reduce the administrative burden and patient care delays caused by

REST OF THE STORY

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE

WATCH Health Policy 101 Episode 1: How to Get Paid & Influence Procedure Valuation and Episode 2: **Ambulatory Payment Classifications & Your Reimbursement**

ASNC is always advocating for you!

Visit our **Advocacy Action Center** for opportunities to make your voice heard. Not yet an ASNC Member? JOIN TODAY!

ADVOCACY ACTION CENTER

Aug. 16: Choosing the Best Test for Your Patient in a Multimodality Environment: Experts Debate Real-world <u>Cases</u> - Invite Your Referring Colleagues to Attend This Free Webinar with You!

Upcoming ASNC Events

ASNC | info@asnc.org | 703-459-2555

ASNC EVENT CALENDAR

and explain how you can help. The information below will position you to

always, ASNC is committed to working for you.

Payment Data at a Glance: New Charts Compile CY2022 **Proposed Reimbursement Rates**



analysis of the CY2022 final rules and updated charts.

reimbursement rates.

101 EPISODE 2 – **AMBULATORY PAYMENT**

CLASSIFICATIONS & YOUR REIMBURSEMENT

Why does ASNC carefully monitor for ambulatory payment reclassification proposals? ASNC President Randall C. Thompson, MD, FASNC, explains in this

ASNC Maintains Call for Repeal

that only appropriate claims are subject to AUC claims-processing edits.

In the recently released Medicare Physician Fee Schedule proposed rule, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) said it will delay the AUC Mandate another year. CMS is now aiming to initiate the program's penalty phase in 2023 and is seeking information from the public that may assist the agency as it works to ensure

CMS is under a statutory mandate to implement the law with little wiggle room to make changes. Meanwhile,

clinicians who would be subjected to the law's requirements. ASNC's position on the law has remained unchanged since its enactment: The program is complex, administratively burdensome, unnecessary, unworkable, and should be repealed. Repealing a statutorily mandated program is always difficult and in the case of the AUC Program could come with

Congress has been relatively unconcerned with the delays despite the uncertainty it imposed on physicians and other

prior authorization requirements. Previously, ASNC joined the AMA and a coalition of healthcare provider and patient groups urging passage of the "Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act," which would have streamlined and standardized prior authorization requirements under the Medicare Advantage program. Unfortunately, the bill did not receive a vote. Now, however, a new Texas law is a step in the right direction for the authorization issues. Starting Sept. 1,

physicians in Texas with a track record of submitting appropriate orders to state-regulated insurers will receive a "gold card" granting them automatic approval on test and treatment orders for the following year,

ASNC supports reform of prior authorization policies because we are a #PatientFirst organization committed to the timely delivery of the right service for each patient's unique clinical characteristics. If you encounter coverage denials or prior authorization problems with your imaging recommendations, please use this reporting form

thus exempting them from prior authorization requirements. ASNC's Health Policy Committee has communicated support of the law and is monitoring to see if similar efforts gain traction in other states.

MEMBER BENEFIT SPOTLIGHT

Take Advantage of These Valuable Member Resources

ASNC is committed to supporting you through every stage of your career. We provide these and more resources to help you with unique payment and practice management issues:

REVIEW Reimbursement Updates, Policy Guidance, Coding Tips, and Tools

DOWNLOAD CY2022 Proposed MPFS and HOPPS Payment Charts (ASNC Members Only)

Sept 21-Oct. 16: ASNC2021 Annual Scientific Session and Exhibition - Register by Aug. 17 and Save!

Aug. 25: An Urgent Conversation About the Future of Cardiovascular Imaging - The Official Launch of

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ASNC's #PatientFirst Initiative - WATCH FOR DETAILS

Sept. 18-19: 2021 Nuclear Cardiology Board Exam Prep Course

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