## News Flash
### ASNC-led Coalition Asks Congress to Recognize Demands of COVID-19 Response by Suspending the AUC Mandate

On March 22, ASNC led a group of 18 other medical societies in asking Congress, in light of the COVID-2019 pandemic, to intervene to reassure physicians that there will be no need to move beyond the Testing and Operations Phase of the AUC Mandate in 2021 by suspending the program through legislative action.

In a letter delivered to Congress last week, the groups pointed out that physicians are striving to provide care that is as close to business as usual but the strains of the COVID-19 response are causing staffing shortages as well as workflow changes as patients are triaged and procedures and services are delayed or canceled. **ASNC, the American Medical Association, American College of Surgeons, Medical Group Management Association, and 14 other groups** urged Congress to intervene to alleviate concerns about the AUC Mandate amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

**READ THE LETTER TO CONGRESS**

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### ANNOUNCING

### New Webinar

### Virtual Visits: Utilizing Technology to Drive Patient Care & Appropriate Use

Join ASNC experts on Thursday, April 2, at 5:00 PM (U.S. EDT), for **"Virtual Visits: Utilizing Technology to Drive Patient Care & Appropriate Use."** You'll learn --

- How to **build a successful virtual visiting program**;
- **Billing requirements**—for telehealth services generally and **COVID-19 testing** specifically;
- The latest **private payer telehealth policies,** including how long we expect telehealth billing flexibility will last;
- Details on Medicare's newly expanded **Accelerated and Advance Payment Program**; and
- What the **COVID-19 relief law** means for you.

Moderator: **ASNC Health Policy Committee Chair David Wolinsky, MD, MASNC**

Faculty: **Regina Druz, MD, FASNC, Camille Bonta, MHS,** and **Georgia Lawrence, JD**

This webinar is complimentary for ASNC members. The fee for non-members is $99 -- or JOIN ASNC and get free access to this webinar plus ASNC's many other member benefits.

**REGISTER NOW**

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## COVID-19 NEWS & RESOURCES

**ASNC Details Key Provisions for Clinicians in the COVID-19 Relief Law.** Signed into law March 27, the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* will provide $100 billion in relief to healthcare providers, with funds limited to eligible professionals who provide diagnoses, testing or care for individuals with possible or actual cases of COVID-19. Read ASNC's summary of the law's provisions for healthcare providers.

**ASNC Summarizes Private Payer Coverage for COVID-19 Services.** For your convenience, ASNC has summarized the policies that major private payers have released for COVID-19 testing and telehealth service expansion. Download the summary.

**AMA Expands Coding Guidance for COVID-19 Care.** The presentation illustrates how to code scenarios such as an E/M visit where the patient tests positive for COVID-19 or a telehealth visit that leads to the patient coming in to be tested for the virus. View the presentation and this flowchart.

**Study: In COVID-19 Patients, Cardiac Injury Associated with Higher Risk of In-hospital Mortality.** A retrospective study of 416 hospitalized patients published in *JAMA Cardiology* found that cardiac injury was common among hospitalized patients with COVID-19 in Wuhan, China. Analysis comparing patients with vs. without cardiac injury revealed the cardiac-injured patients had higher risk of death both during the time from symptom onset and from admission to endpoint. Read the study.

**Mo-99 Supply Line Stable, Says Nuclear Medicine Europe.** Despite increasing challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mo-99 pipeline "has not yet experienced any significant disruptions," according to a NMEu memo issued March 24. The association's Security of Supply Working Group Emergency Response Team continues to meet weekly to discuss logistics and issues related to COVID-19 response. Read the memo.

**COVID-19 Resource Center**

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## ASNC UPDATES

**ASNC Webinar on COVID-19 Preparedness Now Available 24/7.** Nearly 500 members of the global nuclear cardiology community came together for a live-streamed ASNC webinar featuring faculty from China, Singapore, and the U.S. The discussion focused on which tests to cancel or postpone and best practices for protecting patients and personnel from the virus. Speakers recommended safety precautions to take at each step of a patient's journey through the nuclear cardiology lab: before arrival, on arrival, during testing, and through interpretation and reporting. Watch the recorded webinar.

DAIC Reports on ASNC Webinar, Focuses on Telehealth Opportunities Following last week's COVID-19 Preparedness webinar, *Diagnostic and Interventional Cardiology* Editor Dave Fornell interviewed **Regina Druz, MD, FASNC,** about the rapid expansion of telehealth utilization. Watch DAIC's coverage.

**ASNC Urges Congressional Action on COVID-19 Response.** ASNC joined the AMA in a letter urging Congress to require all payers to provide coverage for audio-only telehealth visits with patients, financial support to practices on the front lines of COVID-19 testing and treatment, and financial support to practices experiencing financial impacts from canceling elective visits and procedures. Read the letter to Congress.

**ASNC News**

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## COMING SOON!

*"Guidance and Best Practices for Nuclear Cardiology Laboratories During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic: An Information Statement from ASNC and SNMMI."* ASNC will alert you as soon as the statement is posted by the *Journal of Nuclear Cardiology*.

**The ASNC team is grateful for you and the work you're doing.**

**Be safe. Be well.**

**Latest Updates**

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