



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the first **Health Policy special edition** of ASNC's *Flashpoint* newsletter. Your ASNC advocacy team developed the following content to help you keep current on evolving issues. We also want to ensure you understand where and why we need your help as we confront specific challenges.

Please take the time to read these updates, respond to our calls to action, and contact us at info@asnc.org if you have questions or concerns. We are committed to working for you, your practices, and your patients.

David Wolinsky, MD, MASNC
ASNC Health Policy Committee Chair

CALL TO ACTION

ASNC Needs to Know About Your Prior Authorization Problems and Coverage Denials

United Healthcare (UHC) – the largest commercial health insurer in the U.S. – recently updated its payment policy to provide reimbursement for coronary CT angiography. The policy states that CCTA will be used “as a first line test to assess stable chest pain.”

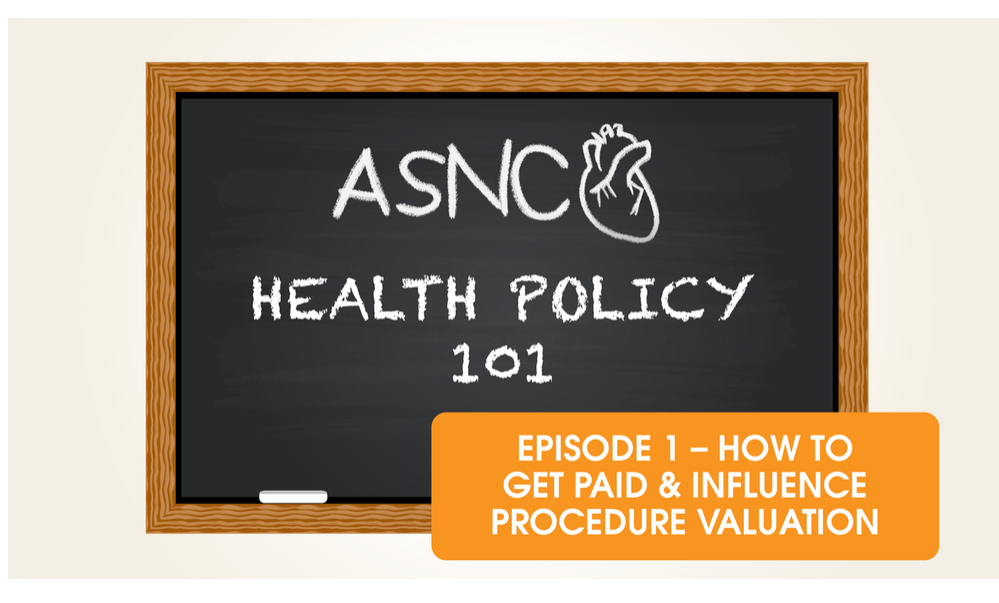
In response to ASNC queries, UHC said the policy does not indicate any change to approval and reimbursement for SPECT or PET testing. Unfortunately, ASNC is hearing member reports of CCTA being pushed as a first-line test over SPECT. **ASNC is adamant that the choice of tests is within the purview of the physician's clinical judgment and that such decisions should be made in consultation with the patient.**

ASNC advocates for putting the patient – never any specific test – first.

We need your input now. Please use this ASNC [reporting form](#) to tell us about any denials or prior authorization problems that you encounter based on the imaging modality(ies) you recommend for your patients.

[SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE](#)

'ASNC Health Policy 101': New Video Series Answers Your Advocacy Questions



The first episode of "ASNC Health Policy 101" focuses on how payment amounts are assigned for physicians' services and how you can help impact procedural values. [WATCH NOW.](#)

Today ASNC debuts **Health Policy 101**, a series of educational videos aimed at filling information voids that may be impacting your practice management decisions.

ASNC 2021 President Randall C. Thompson, MD, FASNC, who has represented ASNC on many advocacy initiatives, [kicks off the series](#). He explains how the AMA's RVS Update Committee ("the RUC") works and specific steps that ASNC members can take to contribute to the process that assigns value to the services they deliver.

[WATCH NOW](#)

ACT NOW

The Time Has Come: Congress Must Repeal the Medicare AUC Program

With the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) poised to implement the [Medicare Appropriate Use Criteria \(AUC\) Program](#) for advanced diagnostic imaging to the fullest extent possible in 2022, ASNC continues its advocacy to put a stop to the program and redirect policymakers toward existing and emerging payment models designed to drive appropriate healthcare resource use.

For seven years, CMS has struggled to implement the program, which has been fraught with complexity and technical hurdles, including the mandated documentation of AUC information on the Medicare claim form by the physician who furnishes the imaging test.

ASNC has been the leading voice asking congressional lawmakers to rethink the necessity of the program, which has grown outdated since it was established in 2014. More recently, ASNC spearheaded a [letter to CMS](#) signed by 15 other organizations requesting that the agency **publicly report the obstacles to AUC Program implementation, and consider the anticipated cost and administrative burden** of the program – plus its questionable return on investment – on physician practices.

Unless Congress acts, CMS intends to implement the AUC Program to the fullest extent possible in 2022.

Contact Congress Using ASNC's Convenient Letter Template

You can help deliver the message to your members of Congress that the Medicare AUC Program is a complicated, outdated, administratively burdensome, and costly mandate that should be repealed.

Visit [ASNC's Action Center](#) and, in just a few simple steps, you can send an email to your congressional representatives. ASNC's Health Policy Committee has provided a template letter for you to personalize.

[EMAIL CONGRESS NOW](#)

MEDICARE PAYMENT UPDATE

Physician Fee Cuts Averted, But Another Challenge Looms

As 2020 drew to a close, Congress heard the grassroots calls of ASNC members and others throughout the house of medicine and swooped in with legislation to avert an across-the-board Medicare physician fee cut. **For cardiology, the result was an average pay increase of 3 percent.**

Given the happy ending, it's tempting to put the whole chapter behind us and forget about it. That would be a mistake. Read the [rest of the story](#) to learn why.

[REST OF THE STORY](#)



For ASNC Members: CY2021 Nuclear Cardiology Payment Charts

RVUs and Allowables 3Q 2020 Compared to CY 2021 Final Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) Nuclear Cardiology Procedures, Radiopharmaceuticals and Drugs

CPT Code	Procedure	3Q 2020 RVU	3Q 2020 Allowable	3Q 2020 Ratio	3Q 2021 RVU	3Q 2021 Allowable	3Q 2021 Ratio	Change
93.00	ECG	1.20	1.20	1.00	1.20	1.20	1.00	0.00
93.05	ECG with ST-T analysis	1.20	1.20	1.00	1.20	1.20	1.00	0.00
93.07	ECG with ST-T analysis and rhythm strip	1.20	1.20	1.00	1.20	1.20	1.00	0.00
93.08	ECG with ST-T analysis and rhythm strip and lead II, III, aVF	1.20	1.20	1.00	1.20	1.20	1.00	0.00
93.09	ECG with ST-T analysis and rhythm strip and lead I, aVL, V1, V2, V3, V4, V5, V6	1.20	1.20	1.00	1.20	1.20	1.00	0.00
93.10	ECG with ST-T analysis and rhythm strip and lead I, aVL, V1, V2, V3, V4, V5, V6 and rhythm strip	1.20	1.20	1.00	1.20	1.20	1.00	0.00
93.11	ECG with ST-T analysis and rhythm strip and lead I, aVL, V1, V2, V3, V4, V5, V6 and rhythm strip and rhythm strip	1.20	1.20	1.00	1.20	1.20	1.00	0.00

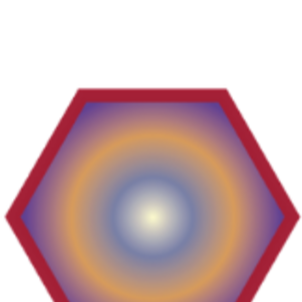
As a service to members, ASNC calculated the latest Medicare data files, calculated CY2021 payment amounts for nuclear cardiology services, and created user-friendly charts available in

ASNC's [Advocacy Hub](#). We encourage members to download and use the **CY2021 Updated Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Payment Chart** and the **CY2021 Final Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (HOPPS) Rates Chart** as practice management tools.

[DOWNLOAD CHARTS](#)

Not Yet an ASNC Member? For access to these helpful charts plus many more member benefits, [JOIN ASNC NOW.](#)

Learn How to Take Your Lab to a Higher Level at 'Nuclear Cardiology Today 2021 - Virtual'



Nuclear Cardiology Today

April 29 - May 2

INVITATION FOR YOU AND YOUR TEAM

Join us for "Nuclear Cardiology Today: Strategies to Thrive in a Changing Healthcare Environment - A Virtual Live Program from ASNC."

FEATURING

Renowned cardiologist **Clyde Yancy, MD, MSc**, from Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine,

and

CDC Epidemiologist and U.S. Public Health Service Commander **Kristie E.N. Clarke, MD, MSCR**, who leads the CDC's COVID-19 Disproportionately Affected Populations Team.

WHEN

Thursday, April 29, through Sunday, May 2.

WHY

For essential updates on isotopes, images, and cameras, PLUS the big dilemmas facing nuclear cardiology professionals in 2021.

EARLY REGISTRATION RATES

Take advantage of discounted registration prices through March 31.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Upcoming ASNC Events

March 9 : [Cardiac Amyloidosis in Latin America: Read with the Experts Webinar](#) - Complimentary

March 26 : [99mTc-PYP Evaluation of ATTR Cardiac Amyloidosis: Case-based Application of the New Interpretation and Reporting Recommendations Webinar](#) - Complimentary for ASNC Members; \$75 for Nonmembers

April 9-11 : [Cardiac PET Intensive Virtual Live Workshop](#) - Virtual Program

April 29-May 2 : [Nuclear Cardiology Today: Strategies to Thrive in a Changing Healthcare Environment](#) - A Virtual Live Program from ASNC

May 9-11 : [ICNC-CT 2021](#) - Virtual Conference

Sept 30-Oct. 3 : [ASNC2021 Annual Scientific Session and Exhibitor Showcase](#)

[ASNC EVENT CALENDAR](#)

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