



Dear ENT Advocacy Network Member:

August 3, 2018

Legislative and political activity directly affects our practices and our patients. As a leading advocate for otolaryngology-head and neck surgery, we hope you enjoy reading this edition of The ENT Advocate, your premier source of advocacy information for the specialty!

Lead Story

CMS Publishes Proposed 2018 Physician Fee Schedule

On July 12, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) [issued a proposed rule](#) that includes 2019 updates to payment policies, payment rates, and quality provisions for services furnished under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) and the Quality Payment Program (QPP). The AAO-HNS is analyzing the 1,500-page proposed rule and will submit comments by the September 10 deadline. To help answer questions regarding the proposed rule and its impact on your practice and patients, a new Panel Presentation has been added to the [AAO-HNSF 2018 Annual Meeting & OTO Experience](#) program.

Action Requested

August Recess Is Here - Time to Plan Your I-GO Event!

Federal lawmakers have returned to their districts for the month-long Congressional in-district work period. Utilizing the [AAO-HNS In-district Grassroots Outreach \(I-GO\) program](#), don't miss this opportunity to meet with your federal lawmakers at a district office, or better yet, invite them to visit your medical practice or academic facility. Contact govtaffairs@entnet.org to learn more about the I-GO program or to request assistance in scheduling your meetings.

ICYMI: ENT PAC in Your Mailbox

All U.S. AAO-HNS members recently received a mail piece urging support for ENT PAC, the Academy's political action committee. ENT PAC provides otolaryngologist-head and neck surgeons with the opportunity to work together to amplify the specialty's collective voice and impact on Capitol Hill. To ensure the continued strength of the Academy's political programs, make your contribution online today, or learn more about ENT PAC and the Academy's legislative priorities by logging onto www.entpac.org!*

Legislative & Political Reports

ENT PAC in Action

July was a busy month on Capitol Hill for ENT PAC. In addition to making the Academy's voice heard at political events in support of U.S. Representatives Vern Buchanan (R-FL), Buddy Carter (R-GA), Leonard Lance (R-NJ), Bill Pascrell (D-NJ), and U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN), the Academy hosted (via ENT PAC) a physician community event for Rep. Jackie Walorski (R-IN), a strong champion of physician issues and member of the U.S. House Committee on Ways & Means. Also, ENT PAC's "First 50" contributors of \$1,000+ participated on a conference call with U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy, MD (R-LA) to discuss the current legislative landscape on Capitol Hill.

Energy and Commerce Committee Examines MACRA/MIPS

Before departing Capitol Hill for the August in-district work period, members of the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health [convened an oversight hearing examining implementation of MACRA and MIPS](#). The testimony of the physician witnesses focused on successful components of the MIPS program, as well as suggestions for continued programmatic refinements. Hearing participants also discussed technical changes to MACRA, included in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, designed to simplify and improve the MIPS program.

AAO-HNS Participates in the 2018 NCSL Legislative Summit

During the week of July 30, AAO-HNS Advocacy staff attended the National Conference of State Legislators 2018 Legislative Summit in Los Angeles, CA. The Summit brings legislators and staff together to hear from experts on the most critical state issues.

Other News

Newly Added Panel Presentation: "FDA Perspective on OSA: A Growth Area for Otolaryngology"

Mark your calendar to attend the Panel Presentation titled "FDA Perspective on OSA: A Growth Area for Otolaryngology," a new addition to the AAO-HNSF 2018 Annual Meeting & OTO Experience scheduled for Monday, October 8, at 8:45 am (ET). The event is a follow up to the April [FDA-sponsored public workshop](#) on sleep disordered breathing in adults, in which the Academy was a key participant. The panel will feature Eric A. Mann, MD, PhD, an otolaryngologist serving as the Clinical Deputy Director of the Division of Ophthalmic and Ear, Nose and Throat Devices at the FDA.

Aetna Expands Coverage for Hypoglossal Nerve Stimulation for Treatment of OSA

Aetna [recently announced](#) a new coverage policy for hypoglossal nerve neurostimulation for the treatment of moderate to severe obstructive sleep apnea (OSA). Under the new policy, FDA-approved hypoglossal nerve neurostimulation devices are considered medically necessary to treat OSA when certain clinical criteria are met.

Surgeon General Commissions Report on Oral Health

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of the Surgeon General, the NIH, and the U.S. Public Health Service's Oral Health Coordinating Committee have announced the [commission of a Surgeon General's Report on oral health](#). The report will document progress in oral health since the 2000 report, identify existing knowledge gaps and challenges in the craniofacial complex, and articulate a vision for the future.

Sincerely,

Susan R. Cordes, MD
BOG Legislative Affairs Committee Chair
and the AAO-HNS Legislative Advocacy Team

For more information, contact govtaffairs@entnet.org. Don't forget to bookmark [The ENT Advocate!](#)

If you no longer wish to receive important legislative and political updates via *The ENT Advocate*, please reply to this email with CANCEL ADVOCATE in the subject line.

*Contributions to ENT PAC are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Contributions are voluntary, and all members of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery have the right to refuse to contribute without reprisal. Federal law prohibits ENT PAC from accepting contributions from foreign nationals. By law, if your contributions are made using a personal check or credit card, ENT PAC may use your contribution only to support candidates in federal elections. All corporate contributions to ENT PAC will be used for educational and administrative fees of ENT PAC, and other activities permissible under federal law. Federal law requires ENT PAC to use its best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation, and the name of the employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year.

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