



Your Voice Is Needed

AMGA members are key to protecting Medicare reimbursement

By Alicia Sawyer



This holiday season, AMGA members are joining in a chorus against Medicare cuts, heralding the AMGA Stop the Cuts campaign to congressional leadership. With the support of AMGA members, the AMGA advocacy team launched the Stop the Cuts campaign, urging Congress to address the proposed cuts to Medicare and support providers with sustainable, reliable reimbursement.

This song is clear and powerful. Without congressional action, medical groups and integrated systems of care face a 2.8% cut to the Medicare Part B conversion factor on January 1, 2025. This is the fifth year the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a fee schedule regulation decreasing reimbursement to physicians and other clinicians. In the last four years, an 8% cut to Medicare reimbursement has accumulated, causing providers to take action.

AMGA highlighted the need for sustainable Medicare reimbursement in a letter to congressional leadership. The letter cited a recent survey of AMGA members on the impact of Medicare cuts, illustrating the effect cuts will have on patient care and serving as a powerful advocacy tool. The results paint a stark image of the future of care and the inability of medical groups and systems of care to continue absorbing cuts.

For instance, for 2025, 69% of respondents reported they would be forced to implement hiring freezes/delay hires; in 2024, 54% instituted hiring freezes/delays. In all, 67% of respondents indicated that they will have to eliminate patient services in 2025, with 42% percent of groups already having eliminated services to Medicare patients in 2024. A further 42% of respondents instituted delays in social drivers of health investments in 2024, and 54% are expected to continue these delays in 2025.

AMGA members played a critical role not only in survey participation, but also by continuing the advocacy momentum from Capitol Hill Day in June, participating in the Stop the Cuts campaign through the District Advocacy Program (DAP),

and sending letters to their legislators through the grassroots network. The DAP program continues to connect AMGA member medical groups and systems of care with their congressional representatives and staff for virtual meetings. They provided firsthand accounts to their representatives' offices on how Medicare cuts will directly impact patient care in the communities they serve. Policymakers and their staff value the hands-on insight from within their community.

The AMGA grassroots network also actively participated in the Stop the Cuts campaign, mobilizing AMGA members in letter-writing campaigns to legislators. In September, the network supported an AMGA-endorsed, bipartisan letter addressed to congressional leadership

urging congressional intervention to stop the 2.8% cut to Medicare reimbursement. The letter, led by Reps. Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA), Ami Bera (D-CA), Kim Schrier (D-WA), Greg Murphy (R-NC), Larry Bucshon (R-IN), Jimmy Panetta (D-CA), John Joyce (R-PA), and Raul Ruiz (D-CA) garnered a total of 232 signers with the support of the AMGA grassroots network.

For many, the New Year brings hope for what is to come. Still,

medical groups and integrated systems of care anticipating billions of dollars in cuts to the Medicare program and reimbursement are struggling to deliver the high-quality care their patients deserve. AMGA member participation is the heart of the Stop the Cuts campaign, elevating the cause with the chorus of their voices in tandem with the AMGA policy team. The Stop the Cuts campaign may only come once a year, but AMGA advocacy is a year-round endeavor. AMGA is supported by the participation of members in the recurrent opportunities for engagement through the DAP program and grassroots network. For questions regarding participation in either program, please contact Alicia Sawyer at asawyer@amga.org. **GRJ**

Alicia Sawyer is government relations assistant for AMGA.