

# HOW ACP ADVOCATED FOR YOU IN 2023

ACP addressed critical issues and worked toward federal and state-level policy reforms.



Click on each item to learn more.



## Worked to Reduce Administrative Burdens

Fought for prior authorization reform:

- Advocated directly with private insurers to block and remove medical service requirements.
- Identified policy solutions to simplify the prior authorization process.
- Recommended inclusion of legislation in larger health care packages.
- Influenced reforms in Medicare Advantage.
- Developed a toolkit to empower members with knowledge and reform resources.

Increased the number of cosponsors for the Safe Step Act and support for the legislation to improve step therapy processes through Leadership Day and other advocacy efforts.

Recommended improvements to federal rules for noncompete clauses in employment contracts to better protect physicians.

Evaluated over 40 performance measures; worked to ensure internal medicine performance measures are clinically meaningful through assessments and recommendations that call for the development of valid measures to reduce the burden of low-value measures.

Empowered physicians and health systems to reduce burnout through a comprehensive I.M. Emotional Support Hub offering individual and systemic solutions.

## Wins for Internal Medicine Physicians in Day-to-Day Practice

CMS adopted many of ACP's recommendations:

- Implemented G2211 code to better recognize the work involved in physicians establishing meaningful relationships with patients and providing continuity of care for their patients.
- Launched "Making Care Primary," a multistate initiative to enhance access to and the quality of primary care, which includes key elements that ACP proposed in the Medical Home Neighborhood model.
- Extended telehealth flexibilities, including continued coverage for audio-only visits, and delayed requiring in-person visits for behavioral health care.



The ACP North Carolina Chapter's focused advocacy with state legislators led to a landmark victory with the approved expansion of Medicaid in the state.



## Issued New Policies & Recommendations to Guide Policymaker Actions

Preparing for Future Pandemics and Public Health Emergencies

Modernizing the United States' Public Health Infrastructure

Reproductive Health Policy in the United States

Beyond the Discharge: Principles of Effective Care Transitions Between Settings

## Shaped the Discussion of Key Public Health Issues

Championed the start of Medicare prescription drug price negotiations, which ACP has long supported.

Initiated a national campaign demanding policies to reduce firearms-related injuries and deaths and positioned internal medicine physicians as a resource for firearm safety information.

Called for patient-centered policies to stem the escalating cost of prescription drugs and joined forces with other medical societies to urge a federal judge to throw out lawsuits challenging Medicare's ability to negotiate the prices of prescription drugs.

Championed patient access to reproductive health services and gender-affirming care.

Facilitated 4,333 grassroots messages to lawmakers, advocating for state and federal legislation, along with federal rulemaking, to support internal medicine physicians and improve the health and well-being of patients.

Prior advocacy efforts yielded results when the FDA lifted time restrictions that prohibited blood donation by men who have sex with men.



## Championed the Value of Internal Medicine Physicians

Celebrated a multiyear identity brand campaign, designed to educate about the breadth, depth, and diversity of our profession and underscore the vital role of internal medicine physicians and the value we bring to health care. To date, campaign elements have been seen over 73 million times.

Celebrated Internal Medicine Day (October 28), which was established by ACP in 2019 to recognize and honor the profession of internal medicine, and the leadership, impact, and value of internal medicine physicians.

## Advocated to Improve Board Certification Policies and Process

Represented internal medicine specialists and subspecialists with the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) and the ABMS Commission calling for improvements in the certification process to improve the value, reduce administrative burdens, and minimize costs.

Pressed for fair certification policies and transparency, urging credentialing bodies to review physicians holistically and recognize their engagement with high-quality education during credentialing.



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