

2020 ADVOCACY IMPACT

Achieved Historic Payment Wins

- Medicare implemented **increased** pay for office visits and other evaluation and management (E/M) codes on 1/1/21, the result of years of ACP advocacy to challenge undervaluation of E/M services
- Congress added another \$3 billion to increase **2021 total payments** to all physicians
- Impact of **payment changes** will result in an estimated 6% increase in total 2021 Medicare payments to internal medicine physicians
- Medicare **simplified documentation requirements** to be paid



Click on each item to learn more



Supporting Physicians and Patients during COVID-19

- Achieved **pay parity for telemedicine**, both video and telephone
- Gained **financial assistance** for practices
- More money and flexibility provided for **Paycheck Protection Program**
- Defense Production Act invoked, funding provided to increase **PPE availability**
- Medicare reporting and regulatory **requirements eased**
- Congress approved three years of **increased funding** for National Health Service Corps, Community Health Centers, and other programs

Supporting Internal Medicine Workforce

- Elimination of backlog and delays in **processing visas for IMGs**
- Congress passed legislation to delay major cuts to **military medical service**
- 1,000 new **Medicare-funded GME positions** authorized
- **DACA program** reinstated

Advocating for Public Health Response to COVID-19

- Increased **funding for testing and treatment** and **vaccine distribution**
- Issued guidelines on **wearing masks** and effectiveness of different types
- Proposed recommendations on **resuming economic and health care activities**
- Recommended **nondiscrimination** in the allocation of resources
- Developed recommendations on **social distancing** and **nonurgent in-person medical care**



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Advocacy Addressing Barriers to Care

- Joined in arguments to the Supreme Court to **protect ACA coverage**
- **Opposed rules to deny access** to care and interfere in patient-physician relationship
- Fought to **eliminate racism and discrimination**, promoted diversity equity and inclusion
- Released new ACP policy: **Racism and Health in the United States**
- Released Framework to **Address Disparities and Discrimination in Health Care**

2020 Policy Efforts

- Policy recommendations to promote **prescription drug competition**
- New ACP policy on **step-therapy and nonmedical drug switching**
- Provided **recommendations to Biden transition team**
- Advocated for **new surprise medical billing provisions** to hold patients harmless from excessive charges, while allowing physicians the ability to seek arbitration with the insurer

ACP's New Vision for Health Care

[Published January 2020]

Envisioning a Better U.S. Health Care

System for All proposes comprehensive reform of U.S. health care.

Four connected papers address:



A Call to Action



Health Care Delivery and Payment System Reforms



Coverage and Cost of Care



Reducing Barriers to Care and Addressing Social Determinants of Health

COVID-19 Shows Why Better Is Necessary, ACP's New Vision Points the Way

The relevance of ACP's New Vision is **magnified amid current health care issues**. In an *Annals of Internal Medicine* opinion piece, ACP leaders outlined how the New Vision recommendations could have helped the U.S. face COVID-19.

See how we're working for you: acponline.org/advocacy