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

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

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

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

2020 ADVOCACY IMPACT

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ACP's New Vision for Health Care

(Published January 2020)


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