

SCCT Grassroots Action Alert

November 4, 2011

Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction Policy (MPPR)

As SCCT reported to you November 2, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized a proposal in the 2012 Final Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, effective January 1, 2012, to apply a 25 percent payment reduction for the professional component (PC) of second and subsequent imaging services furnished by the same provider (including physicians in a group practice) to the same patient in the same session on the same day. This applies to CT, CTA, MR, MRA and ultrasound services.

Rep. Pete Olson, along with 32 cosponsors, introduced legislation, the Diagnostic Imaging Services Access Protection Act of 2011 (H.R. 3269), to prohibit CMS from applying the MPPR to the professional component of imaging services for 2012. The bill would also require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct an analysis of the potential efficiencies within the professional component of diagnostic imaging services before applying a MPPR in future years.

As SCCT argued in its comment letter to CMS, it takes at least the same amount of physician time, and often additional time, to interpret second and subsequent images of the same patient, as second and further images need to be compared to the first image in order to accurately and fully interpret the findings of the imaging test. Most often, the patients that require multiple imaging exams present with the most complex medical conditions, thereby requiring the same amount, if not more effort, to accurately interpret images.

Please contact your Congressional Representative and urge him/her to cosponsor H.R. 3269 and work for its immediate passage.

To contact your U.S. Representative:

- Go to www.house.gov , in the upper right hand corner enter your zip code in the box "Find Your Representative"
- Your Representative's name and contact information will be displayed. Click on the name of your Representative to be directed to his/her website
- Follow the instructions for contacting your Representative OR
- Call the Washington, DC office of your U.S. Representative and ask to speak with the health legislative assistant and state your request

Your Voices Count Most! Thank you for taking action today!

If your member of Congress has cosponsored the bill already, please write to thank him/her for recognizing the importance of medical imaging services. A list of cosponsors is on the next page.

COSPONSORS

Introduced by Rep Pete Olson

[Rep Barrow, John](#) [GA-12] - 10/27/2011
[Rep Blackburn, Marsha](#) [TN-7] - 10/27/2011
[Rep Bonner, Jo](#) [AL-1] - 10/27/2011
[Rep Bono Mack, Mary](#) [CA-45] - 10/27/2011
[Rep Boren, Dan](#) [OK-2] - 10/27/2011
[Rep Braley, Bruce L.](#) [IA-1] - 10/27/2011
[Rep Broun, Paul C.](#) [GA-10] - 10/27/2011
[Rep Bucshon, Larry](#) [IN-8] - 10/27/2011
[Rep Burgess, Michael C.](#) [TX-26] - 10/27/2011
[Rep Capps, Lois](#) [CA-23] - 10/27/2011
[Rep Courtney, Joe](#) [CT-2] - 10/27/2011
[Rep Davis, Danny K.](#) [IL-7] - 10/27/2011
[Rep Fudge, Marcia L.](#) [OH-11] - 10/27/2011
[Rep Harper, Gregg](#) [MS-3] - 10/27/2011
[Rep Harris, Andy](#) [MD-1] - 10/27/2011
[Rep Jenkins, Lynn](#) [KS-2] - 10/27/2011
[Rep Lance, Leonard](#) [NJ-7] - 10/27/2011
[Rep Latham, Tom](#) [IA-4] - 10/27/2011
[Rep Matsui, Doris O.](#) [CA-5] - 10/27/2011
[Rep McCollum, Betty](#) [MN-4] - 10/27/2011
[Rep McMorris Rodgers, Cathy](#) [WA-5] - 10/27/2011
[Rep Murphy, Christopher S.](#) [CT-5] - 10/27/2011
[Rep Nunes, Devin](#) [CA-21] - 10/27/2011
[Rep Owens, William L.](#) [NY-23] - 10/27/2011
[Rep Poe, Ted](#) [TX-2] - 10/27/2011
[Rep Price, Tom](#) [GA-6] - 10/27/2011
[Rep Rothman, Steven R.](#) [NJ-9] - 10/27/2011
[Rep Runyan, Jon](#) [NJ-3] - 10/27/2011
[Rep Schock, Aaron](#) [IL-18] - 10/27/2011
[Rep Scott, David](#) [GA-13] - 10/27/2011
[Rep Stivers, Steve](#) [OH-15] - 10/27/2011
[Rep Tiberi, Patrick J.](#) [OH-12] - 10/27/2011