

ADVOCACY IN ACTION 2024

ACP is your champion, addressing critical issues and promoting policy reforms on the federal and state level to improve the health care system for you and your patients.



Click on each item to learn more.

Led the Charge to Reduce Administrative Burdens



Shaped Prior Authorization Reform:

- Unwavering advocacy resulted in the CMS Interoperability and Prior Authorization final rule requiring Medicare Advantage plans to make decisions within 72 hours for expedited requests
- Joined ACP chapters in NJ, OH, KY, and NH to support efforts in their state to pass legislation that would reduce the burden of prior authorizations
- Empowered members with a toolkit containing background knowledge and reform resources and generated nearly 2,000 grassroots advocacy messages from ACP members supporting prior authorization reforms

Actively Worked to Reduce the Burden of Low-value Performance Measures:

Assessed and published commentaries on:

- Major Depressive Disorder in Adults
- Pain in Adults

Recommended Ways to Reduce EHR Inbox Burden: Released position statement proposing ways to reduce low-value EHR alerts and improve physician well-being

Committed to Reducing Physician Burnout: Developed emotional support initiatives and workflow innovations to enhance well-being

Worked to Improve the Daily Practice Environment

Protected Physician Payment:

- ACP successfully drove the inclusion of report language in Congress' appropriations bills for 2025, calling for a review of whether CMS has overestimated utilization of certain Medicare codes to prevent unnecessary cuts
- Recommended CMS support key reforms and oppose cuts to physician payment rates, with continued efforts to secure adjustments for January 2025
- Mobilized over 5,000 grassroots advocacy actions to support physician payment protections



Advocated for Strengthened Medicare Access: Urged Congress to pass the "Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act", to ensure annual inflation updates and protect patient access to care

Protected Telehealth Services: Advocated for extended telehealth flexibilities, securing continued coverage for audio-only visits and delaying in-person requirements for behavioral health services

Defended Scope of Practice: Actively opposed legislation that would expand pharmacist scope of practice beyond safe limits; developed a toolkit of resources for members to help them advocate at the state level

Shaped the Discussion of Public Health Issues



- **Advocated for Prescription Drug Price Negotiation:** Joined legal briefs supporting Medicare's ability to negotiate prices of 10 leading drugs
- **Supported Unhoused Populations:** Recommended solutions to address the healthcare and social needs of unhoused populations
- **Defended DEI in Medical Education:** Strongly opposed legislative efforts to ban diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs in medical education
- **Supported Firearm Violence Prevention:** Backed the U.S. Surgeon General's declaration acknowledging firearm violence as a serious a public health crisis and signed onto an amicus brief in support of banning bump stocks
- **Ensuring Access to Care:** Championed patient access through policy development, testimony, and formal advocacy efforts

Issued Policies & Recommendations to Guide Policymakers

- Regulatory Framework for Cannabis (July 2024)
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Other Sexual and Gender Minority Health Disparities (June 2024)
- Artificial Intelligence in the Provision of Health Care (June 2024)
- Excessive Alcohol Use and Alcohol Use Disorders (April 2024)
- Physician Perspectives on Private Equity in Health Care (March 2024)
- Meeting the Health and Social Needs of America's Unhoused and Housing-Unstable Populations (Feb 2024)



Championed the Value of Internal Medicine



- Showcased the leadership, impact, role, and value of internal medicine physicians through advertising, publicity, and communications—achieving over 174 million media impressions
- Celebrated Internal Medicine Day (October 28) to acknowledge and celebrate internal medicine physicians and the profession of internal medicine

Advocated to Improve Board Certification Policies and Procedures

- Pressed ABIM to ensure certification procedures are relevant, valuable, and less burdensome for internal medicine physicians
- Served on the commission that informed new standards for continuing certification from ABIM
- Improved transparency of ABIM exam refund policy for medically necessary cancellation, resulting in inclusion of medical emergencies as a reason for a potential full refund and provision of a direct ABIM contact link for refund requests
- Approved participation in the ACP In-Training Examination as a qualifying activity for the AOBIM Early Entry certification exam



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