

Missouri Society of Pathologists



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Dear Congressperson,

Re: Please Support **H.R. 8702 – Holding Providers Harmless From Medicare Cuts During Covid-19 Act of 2020 & Companion bill **S. 5007****

I am writing as a constituent and President of the Missouri Society of Pathologists, a non-profit professional organization of laboratory physicians (mopath.org), to ask for your support of HR8702 & S5007 that will address E/M cuts (CMS payment reductions to non-E/M services), scheduled to go in effect January 01, 2021.

CMS updated its fee schedule adding telehealth services and increasing E/M RVUs. As a concept, incentivizing rural (telehealth) & primary care (maternity care, renal disease) is an excellent idea. However, this puts numerous specialty physicians and physician groups at a severe disadvantage. Due to budget neutrality requirements, RVU of non-E/M providers will be reduced by up to 10%. Laboratory physicians are facing significant payment reductions (over 9%), putting our practices, our employees, and our patients at risk.

We stand with countless physician organizations and the patients in our communities, stating in a clear voice that it would be inappropriate to harm physicians and the patients they serve at the height of a pandemic.

The Missouri Society of Pathologists is asking for your support of the bipartisan, **H.R. 8702 – Holding Providers Harmless Act of 2020**, introduced by Reps. Bera & Bucshon, and its companion **S. 5007 - A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an increase in payment under part B of the Medicare program for certain services in response to COVID-19**, introduced by Sen. Boozman. It keeps the E/M increases for primary care services while providing relief payments for 2 years to those providers who will see a decrease – a win-win for all stakeholders.

On behalf of the many dedicated pathologists in the State of Missouri, I urge you to support H.R. 8702 and S. 5007.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chakshu Gupta".

Chakshu Gupta, MD, MBA

Physician & Concerned American Citizen

President, Missouri Society of Pathologists (mopath.org)

Laboratory Medical Director at Liberty & Amberwell Hospitals

Missouri Society of Pathologists



Notable References:

MEDICARE CUTS WILL HURT PATIENTS

As the following table demonstrates, the impact of these cuts are devastating to health care professionals, their practices, and most importantly, their patients:

Specialty	Payment Change	Specialty	Payment Change
Nurse Anesthetist	-11%	Ophthalmology	-6%
Radiology	-11%	Portable X-Ray Supplier	-6%
Chiropractic	-10%	Radiation Oncology	-6%
Cardiac Surgery	-9%	Colon And Rectal Surgery	-5%
Interventional Radiology	-9%	Dietitian Nutritionist	-5%
Pathology	-9%	Gastroenterology	-5%
Physical/Occupational Therapy*	-9%	Independent Laboratory	-5%
Anesthesiology	-8%	Optometry	-5%
Critical Care	-8%	Oral/Maxillofacial Surgery	-5%
Nuclear Medicine	-8%	Orthopedic Surgery	-5%
Thoracic Surgery	-8%	Multispecialty Clinic	-4%
Audiologist	-7%	Infectious Disease	-4%
General Surgery	-7%	Hand Surgery	-3%
Neurosurgery	-7%	Physical Medicine	-3%
Plastic Surgery	-7%	Dermatology	-2%
Vascular Surgery	-7%	Podiatry	-1%
Emergency Medicine	-6%		

Data from Table 90: Proposed CY 2021 PFS Estimated Impact on Total Allowed Charges by Specialty

*This category includes Speech-Language Pathology.

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