

# AAPM&R Advocates for You!

AAPM&R is the organization that advocates on behalf of PM&R physicians and their patients. We position PM&R physicians as essential leaders early and across the healthcare continuum, defend against threats to PM&R practices and provide members with a powerful voice and opportunities to advocate for the specialty.

With your support this year, we submitted more than 1,300 letters to Congress, sent more than 40 comment letters to federal and local regulatory agencies, and enlisted more than 30 volunteers to collaborate on national and clinical workgroups.

At the beginning of 2024, we asked you to rank the Academy's advocacy priorities – check out examples of how we've advanced these priorities and look for more WINS here: [www.aapmr.org/wins](http://www.aapmr.org/wins).

## Defending the Role of Psychiatrists Against Encroachment from Non-PM&R Physicians and Non-Physicians



WIN

Alongside our partners in the American Medical Association's Scope of Practice Partnership, your State Advocacy Committee (SAC2) responded to bills such as the Washington Senate Bill (WA SB 5411) by engaged with Washington members, and submitted comments opposing this legislation that would expand naturopath scope of practice to include prescription authority and "minor office procedures." WA SB 5411 ultimately failed to pass the 2023-2024 legislative session.

## Fighting Against PM&R Physician Fee Cuts and For Improved PM&R Physician Payment



WIN

In June, after years of advocacy by your Academy and its physician volunteers, the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) announced it has halted its work on developing a recommendation to Congress for site-neutral payment policies for care provided in the Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) setting.



CAMPAIGN

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has proposed a 2.8% cut to physician payment set to take effect on January 1, 2025. A bipartisan coalition of U.S. Representatives are leading a congressional sign-on letter urging immediate action to provide payment relief to physicians and ensure access to care for our patients. Scan here to contact your representatives today to urge them to join this important letter.



## Fighting to Reduce Psychiatrist Burden by Removing Prior Authorization Barriers



WIN

After extensive advocacy efforts by the Academy, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a rule that, once implemented, will require covered payers to establish electronic prior authorization systems, transmit prior authorization decisions within 72 hours for expedited requests and seven calendar days for standard requests, provide a specific reason for denying prior authorization appeals, and publicly report metrics for prior authorization.



CAMPAIGN

The *Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act* (H.R. 8702/S. 4532), bipartisan legislation endorsed by the Academy that would help protect patients from unnecessary delays in care by reforming the prior authorization process under the Medicare Advantage program, was reintroduced in the 118th Congress. Scan here to contact your Congressional representatives to ask for their support on this important legislation.



## Working to Preserve Physiatrists' Expertise in Determining Medical Necessity in Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Admissions

### COLLABORATION



Your Academy, alongside the Federation of American Hospitals (FAH) and the American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association (AMRPA), are working to protect physiatrists' clinical decision making ability by providing input on a nationwide audit of Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (IRFs) by the Office of Inspector General (OIG).

## Advocating for Your Patients to Ensure Equitable Access to Care, Equipment and Community Inclusion

### COLLABORATION



Your Academy drafted and advanced multiple new AMA policies focused on expanding coverage for the equipment vital for PM&R patients. Scan here to learn more.



## Advocating for Expanded Practice Models and Enhanced Ways for Physiatrists to Advance Patient Care through Innovative Strategies

### RESOURCE



In January, AAPM&R launched two alternative payment model resources for members – the Spine Care and Stroke Rehabilitation toolkits are now available on the Academy website for download, or scan the QR code.



## Advancing Long COVID Advocacy to Position PM&R Physicians as Leaders in Multi-Disciplinary Care

### CAMPAIGN



The *Long COVID Moonshot Research Act* (S. 4964), important legislation endorsed by the Academy that would provide a massive increase in funding to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to support Long COVID research, the urgent pursuit of treatments and the expansion of care for patients across the country, was introduced in the 118th Congress. Scan here to contact your Congressional representatives for their support on this important legislation.



Learn more about AAPM&R's advocacy efforts at [aapmr.org/advocacy](https://aapmr.org/advocacy) and get involved today!