

ROAD TO THE RUC

BACKGROUND

For years, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation was one of a very few American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)-recognized specialties to not have a seat on the American Medical Association (AMA) Relative Value Scale Update Committee (RUC). This was due in part to the fact that PM&R did not meet a set of five eligibility criteria established by the RUC. Once it was clear that PM&R met the RUC's five criteria, AAPM&R advocated for a seat at the table for PM&R.

TIMELINE

2019

- Dr. Matthew Grierson's nomination was approved and he was appointed to a two-year position on the RUC, with Dr. Clarice Sinn, MD, FAAPMR serving as his alternate.

2021

- The RUC voted on and approved AAPM&R's request at their January meeting. The permanent seat for PM&R began in March 2021. Dr. Grierson and Dr. Sinn continue to hold the positions of RUC member and RUC alternate member.

2018

- AAPM&R's RUC advisors and staff identified that PM&R met the criteria to apply for a seat on the AMA RUC.
- AAPM&R nominated Dr. Matthew Grierson, MD, FAAPMR to a two-year position on the RUC to network with existing RUC members and gain familiarity with the process.

2020

- A year into Dr. Grierson's two-year appointment, AAPM&R began working on a request to the RUC to grant a permanent seat for PM&R. This request was submitted at the end of 2020.

IMPACT - WHY THE RUC SEAT MATTERS

The RUC is one of the key processes by which the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) determines how to value services. Its recommendations to CMS can be accepted, rejected or modified. These decisions have a ripple effect throughout the private insurance market and can affect compensation. Holding a RUC seat will promote the visibility of PM&R in the House of Medicine and also gives our specialty a voice in deliberations about the valuation of codes presented to the RUC. In addition to our volunteers Dr. Grierson and Dr. Sinn, AAPM&R is represented at the RUC by our advisor, Dr. Carlo Milani, MD, FAAPMR and alternate advisor, Dr. David Reece, DO, FAAPMR.

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