

December 1, 2009

Michael D. Maves, MD, MBA  
Executive Vice President, CEO  
American Medical Association  
515 N. State Street  
Chicago, IL 60654

Dear Dr. Maves:

On behalf of our organizations, we are contacting you to follow-up on action by the AMA House of Delegates in passing Resolution 807, "Medicare's Proposal to Eliminate Payments for Consultation Service Codes," at the 2009 Interim Meeting in Houston. As you know, Resolution 807 calls on the AMA to oppose all public and private payer efforts to eliminate payments for inpatient and outpatient consultation service codes and support legislation to overturn recent CMS action to eliminate consultation codes.

Our organizations co-sponsored or actively supported Resolution 807 because we strongly oppose the elimination of payment for consultation codes. Pending the introduction of legislation to overturn this new policy, it would be extremely helpful to our organizations and the members we serve if the AMA would contact and actively work with HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, CMS and Members of Congress to secure a delay in the implementation of the new consultation code policy, currently scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2010.

As you may be aware, CMS has yet to issue final guidance instructing the physician community on the appropriate use of existing CPT codes to reflect the services previously recognized through use of the consultation codes. There are several outstanding coding issues resulting from this new policy that require clarification and are not determined by a simple crosswalk from consultation codes to established and subsequent patient visit codes. We are very concerned that there will not be enough time to fully educate the practice community and the Medicare carriers on new coding policy and the result will be initial confusion, claims denials, delays in payment for services and disruptions in patient care. We believe these reasons demonstrate a strong, independent and proximate cause for delaying the implementation of this new policy.

We would greatly appreciate the immediate assistance of the AMA on this matter. We would be happy to provide you and your Washington staff additional information on this issue and answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to hearing from you.

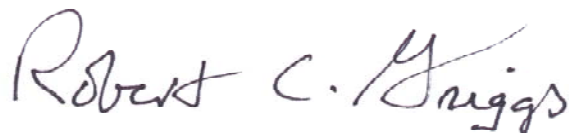
Sincerely,



Jeffrey R. Garber, MD, FACP, FACE  
President, American Association of  
Clinical Endocrinologists



Paul A. Greenberger, MD, FAAAAI  
President, American Academy of Allergy,  
Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI)



Robert C. Griggs, MD, FAAN  
President, American Academy of Neurology



Alfred A. Bove, MD, PhD, FACC  
President, American College of Cardiology



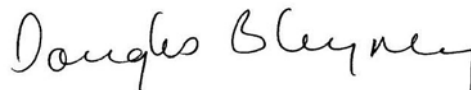
Philip O. Katz, MD, FACC  
President, American College of Gastroenterology



Stanley Cohen, MD  
President, American College of Rheumatology



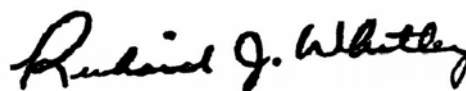
Alan F. Schatzberg, MD  
President, American Psychiatric Association



Douglas W. Blayney, MD  
President, American Society of Clinical Oncology



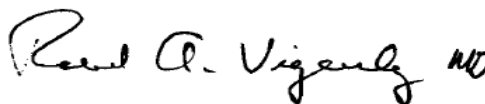
Richard L. Page, MD, FHRS  
President, Heart Rhythm Society



Richard Whitley, MD  
President, Infectious Diseases Society of America



Edward R. Jones, MD  
President, Renal Physicians Association



Robert A. Vigersky, MD  
President, The Endocrine Society