

Date:

Dear

Medicare's Final Ambulatory Surgery Center Rule

As a patient, I am writing to express my concern and opposition to CMS' final rule that changes the payment structure for ambulatory surgery centers (ASC's) beginning next year. When the final rule is finally implemented, I understand that ASC's that offer GI procedures will be forced to operate in the red. As a result, they may not be able to afford to continue seeing Medicare patients.

I am worried that I will not be able to access GI care in my and my doctor's choice of facility in the future. I also do not want to have to pay higher co-payment as services will be forced back into the hospital outpatient department rather than ASC's.

Ironically, CMS' proposal was supposed to be budget neutral (e.g. it was not supposed to cost the government more money than the current system). However, it will end up costing American taxpayers and Medicare patients more for GI services, because when CMS looked at budget neutrality, they did not look at payments across the full spectrum of care sites. A simple fix has been proposed that would be budget neutral compared with current GI ASC payments, and would assure better access and avoid shifting patients into the more expensive hospital outpatient setting for their GI procedures.

Please step in, stop the implementation of this misguided policy, and approve this budget neutral fix. Citizens who are growing older deserve better! Please do what you can so that my loved ones and my access to important care such as screening for colon cancer is not disrupted.

Yours Sincerely

Please contact your Senator and Representative today and ask them to:

Correct faulty work done by CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) by supporting legislation for a reimbursement policy for GI Ambulatory Surgical Centers that is both fair and fiscally responsible.

Tennessee Senator's

Senator Lamar Alexander
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Telephone – 202-224-4944

Senator Bob Corker
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Telephone – 202-224-3344

Mississippi Senator's

Senator Trent Lott
487 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Telephone – 202-224-6253

Senator Thad Cochran
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Telephone – 202-224-5054

Tennessee Representative

Representative Steve Cohen
1004 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Telephone – 202-224-3265

Representative Marsha Blackburn
509 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Telephone – 202-225-2811

Representative John Tanner
1226 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Telephone – 202-225-4714

Mississippi Representative

Representative Roger Wicker
2350 Rayburn House Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Telephone – 202-225-3549

Thank you for voicing your opinion to these two CMS policies that threaten to eliminate the benefits of colon cancer screening.