

Cheat Sheet

E/M

- Throughout 2020, an ACR led coalition of organizations representing over one million physician and non-physician providers lobbied Congress to provide relief from Medicare payment reductions resulting from the reevaluation of E/M codes, as well as the addition of CMS-generated new codes. If these changes were put in place, diagnostic radiology would have faced a -10% Medicare reimbursement reduction.
- In response, Congress added an additional \$3 billion dollars (3.75%) to the fee schedule for 2021 only and postponed the implementation of the CMS-generated codes until 2024. These actions reduced the scheduled payment for diagnostic radiology from approximately -10% to -4%.
- Many physicians and physician practices are still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and many unknowns remain, such as long-term effects of COVID and what changes will be made to the healthcare delivery system in response to the pandemic
- **Congressional Request:** ACR and our coalition partners are asking for an additional \$3 billion dollars for 2022 to ensure continued stability for patients and physicians to aid in the recovery process and facilitate emerging/new best practices.

PAMA/AUC

- In 2014, the Protecting Access to Medicare Act (PAMA) included language requiring ordering clinicians to consult appropriate use criteria (AUC) prior to ordering advanced imaging services in Medicare. CMS was directed to implement AUC by January 1st 2017.
- CMS has faced many implementation challenges, and while the program is currently in an educational testing period through 2021, it has not been fully implemented.
- ACR believes these difficulties are associated with CMS' inability to process claims in real-time.
- **Congressional Request:** ACR is seeking congressional support this year for amending the PAMA AUC provision that would eliminate the real-time claims processing requirement in favor of an annual audit and review by CMS, as well as exempting ordering providers participating in clinical trials and advanced alternative payment models from the AUC consultation requirement.

Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act (S. 610/H.R. 1667)

- Dr. Lorna Breen was a New York City emergency room physician who tragically died by suicide in April 2020. Dr. Breen was aware of her struggles and signaled her distress to friends and family. Despite eventually seeking care, she still feared potential professional repercussions and not want to "let down" her patients and her colleagues.
- COVID-19 has taken an incredible toll on the mental health of those who have been selflessly caring for patients during this unprecedented modern public health crisis.
- The legislation will ensure clinicians can seek mental health treatment and services without fear of professional setback.
- **Congressional Request:** ACR requests congressional lawmakers cosponsor S. 610/H.R. 1667 if they have not already done so. (Check cosponsor list)

For more detailed information, please reference the one-pagers located at:
<https://www.acr.org/Lifelong-Learning-and-CME/Meetings-and-Course-Calendar/ACR-Annual-Meeting#WednesdayMay19>