Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction in Proposed Rule

The recently released CMS 2013 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Proposed Rule includes an expansion of multiple procedure payment reduction (MPPR) policy that would negatively impact payment by imposing a 25 percent payment reduction on the technical component for the less expensive service if more than one service is provided on the same day to the same patient. The ACC has reviewed the expanded MPPR policy and believes a payment reduction is not the appropriate course of action. Thanks to the grassroots efforts of ACC members, 60 members of Congress recently signed on to a House Energy and Commerce lettre. Committee Members Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) and John Barrow (D-GA) to CMS Acting Administrator Marilyn Tavenner opposing the proposed MPPR expansion. CMS’ decision will be part of the final rule, which is due out in late October/early November.

Membership Dues Deadline Coming Soon

ACC membership renewal is due on Dec. 10. Membership provides more than $1,800 worth of benefits each year and helps cardiovascular professionals stay up-to-date on the latest in cardiovascular care and at the top of their field. Visit CardioSource.org/Dues to renew.
Blog Post Focuses on Readmission Penalties

The unintended consequences of readmission penalties are explored in a recent ACC in Touch Blog post. Judy Tingley, MPH, RN, member of the ACC’s Clinical Quality Committee, warns health care professionals to brace for impact following the CMS readmission payment penalties that went into effect on Oct. 1.

This early in the game, the consequences of these financial penalties on more than 2,200 hospitals with readmission rates above the national averages are "yet to be determined." However, it's clear that "safety net" hospitals will be impacted the most. ACC’s Hospital to Home (H2H) program is hard at work to reduce all-cause readmissions among patients with heart failure or acute myocardial infarction in hospitals across the country. Read more about readmissions and H2H.

ACC Returns to the White House

In early October, ACC member and Washington, DC, Chapter Governor Stuart Seides, MD, FACC, joined several physician specialist groups at the White House to discuss delivery system transformation. Several of President Obama’s top health care advisors joined the discussion, including Richard Gilfillan, MD, director of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, Jeanne Lambrew, deputy assistant to the president for health policy, Jon Blum, deputy administrator and director of Medicare at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and Nancy Nielsen, MD, PhD, senior advisor to the Secretary of Health and Human Services. During the course of the discussion, Seides had the opportunity to highlight the exciting programs the College has implemented that achieve both improved care coordination and high quality efficient health care, including the Imaging in FOCUS initiative, the National Cardiovascular Data Registry (NCDR®) and PINNACLE Registry®, and the SMARTCare program.
The Doctors Company, ACC’s Choice for Malpractice Insurance

The American College of Cardiology (ACC) exclusively endorses The Doctors Company, the nation’s largest medical malpractice insurer. This malpractice insurance program through the ACC is the first to focus on general cardiologists, interventional cardiologists, cardiothoracic surgeons, and pediatric and adult congenital cardiologists. Together we identify areas for improvement in the treatment of people with heart disease, educate members about clinical events identified as high risk, and provide members with patient safety tools and programs. The Doctors Company offers ACC members a unique combination of coverage features, aggressive claims defense, superior protection, and unrivaled rewards, including the Tribute® Plan, a financial benefit that rewards doctors for their loyalty and their dedication to superior patient care. More benefits for ACC members include:

- Program discount of 5 percent with a favorable claims history
- Claims-free credit of up to 25 percent for eligible members
- Credit of 5 percent for participating in the PINNACLE Registry®
- Credit of 5 percent for participation in maintenance of certification

To take advantage of these exclusive savings, call (888) 312-8571.

ICD-10 Date is Official

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) finalized a proposed one-year delay for ICD-10 compliance, officially setting the deadline to Oct. 1, 2014. HHS confirmed the

ACC CEO Search Underway

The College is now soliciting applications for the Chief Executive Officer with the first interviews beginning in early December. The College has selected Korn/Ferry International to work with the College's Search Committee.