

College Joins Fight Against Implementation of G2211 Code

August 1, 2023



The ACS, with 18 other surgical organizations, has expressed strong opposition to the implementation of Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) code G2211, which would penalize surgeons and negatively affect surgical patients.

In a letter sent last week to CMS, the 19 groups expressed continued opposition to the code and called for long-term payment reform. G2211 was first introduced in 2020 as an effort by CMS to pay more for certain office visits. These additional payments would predominately help primary care physicians even though most of the office visit codes for this type of care were increased in 2021.

In the 3 years since G2211 was introduced, its flaws and the larger problems with the Medicare physician payment system have not been addressed.

“The ACS continues to advocate for a long-term, permanent fix to the broken payment system to enable better delivery of care for patients. Congress can stop implementation of G2211, eliminate a majority of the expected 2024 Medicare physician payment cut, and not be required to expend any resources for this short-term solution,” said Patricia L. Turner, MD, MBA, FACS, ACS Executive Director and CEO.

Under G2211 for office visits, physicians and qualified healthcare professionals have the flexibility to bill a higher-level code to account for increased medical decision-making or total time of the encounter. The numerous codes currently available for documenting work and time across various levels of care make G2211 unnecessary.

Additionally, G2211 would result in overpayments to those using it and penalize all physicians due to a reduction in the Medicare conversion factor that will be required to maintain budget neutrality under the 2024 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule proposed rule.

In addition to the flawed G2211 code, Congress has not taken any steps to fix the broken Medicare physician payment system and create a long-term solution. A flawed G2211 code on top of a broken Medicare physician payment system would be harmful to the healthcare system and not serve the long-term interest of patients.

Read the [full letter from the 19 surgical organizations](#).

In This Issue

ACS BRIEF

US Senate Considers Expanded Access to STOP THE BLEED® Kits

The ACS strongly supports bipartisan legislation introduced last week in the US Senate that would expand access to STOP THE BLEED® kits for states, tribal territories, and local governments.

ACS BRIEF

Residents: Participate in FREE, Tailored Program at Clinical Congress 2023

All residents are invited to attend the 2023 Surgery Resident Program at Clinical Congress in Boston, Massachusetts. This special 2-day program will focus on preparing trainees for a career in surgery.

ACS BRIEF

Last Chance: Register for General Surgery Oral Exam Prep Courses by August 4

Planning to take the American Board of Surgery Certifying Examination? Then don't miss the opportunity to join the ACS General Surgery Oral Examination Prep Course and give yourself the best chance for success.

ACS BRIEF

Current Literature

Commentaries summarizing important new scientific literature pertinent to surgeons and care teams.

ACS BRIEF

Learn about Changes to Anterior Abdominal Hernia Repair Coding

Expert surgeons talk about changes to anterior abdominal wall hernia repair coding.

ACS BRIEF

Take Advantage of ACS Practice Management Resources

The ACS has updated and expanded its practice management offerings to include a website hub and a new surgeon salary data report. By offering all practice management resources in one hub on facs.org, the ACS aims to help Members access these resources more easily.

ACS BRIEF

Participate in FREE Surgeon Specific Registry and Practice Improvement Initiative

The ACS Surgeon Specific Registry (ACS SSR™) is a comprehensive online quality improvement tool and software application database focused on individual surgeons and surgical practices, and it is convenient and easy to use from any computer or mobile device.

ACS BRIEF

ACS Women in Surgery Committee Launches “What I Wish I Knew” Series

Women surgeons may face unique challenges as they progress through their surgical careers, and the ACS Women in Surgery Committee recently launched the “What I Wish I Knew” video series to share the wisdom of successful women surgeons.

ACS BRIEF

Join ACS Virtual Course on Using AI and Machine Learning in Surgery

Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) are comparatively new fields and only recently have efforts begun to develop applications of these models for surgical practice and education. A new virtual course from the ACS highlights the essential principles of AI and ML.

ACS BRIEF

Surgeons Will Unite in Boston for an Unforgettable Experience

The theme of Clinical Congress 2023 is “Surgeons United.” Hear from ACS leaders about why this theme is meaningful to them.

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