

One Academy. One Voice.

By uniting our efforts, we're not just adapting to change—we're driving it. AAPM&R is shaping the future of physiatry by influencing legislation, elevating the role of PM&R physicians across medicine, and amplifying member voices through events, campaigns and volunteerism. We're empowering every PM&R physician—across all settings and subspecialties—to lead, advocate and make a lasting impact.

With your support this year, we submitted more than 700 letters to Congress and federal agencies, sent more than 60 comment letters to local regulatory agencies and private insurance companies, and secured 27 volunteers to serve on national and clinical workgroups.

From defending your scope of practice to advancing telehealth access, your Academy is making real progress. Scan the QR code to explore our full array of advocacy efforts—and see highlights below.



AAPM&R's Advocacy Priorities

- ☑ Fighting Against PM&R Physician Fee Cuts and For Fair Payment
- ☑ Defending PM&R Physicians Against Scope of Practice Threats
- ☑ Enhancing the Recognition of PM&R Medical Expertise in Inpatient Rehabilitation, Pain Management, and Other Clinical Areas
- ☑ Advancing Prior Authorization Reform
- ☑ Protecting Federal Disability and Rehabilitation Research Funding
- ☑ Advocating for PM&R's Role within Value-Based Rehabilitation Care
- ☑ Advocating for Your Patients
- ☑ Advancing the Integration of Novel Technologies in PM&R Practice
- ☑ Preserving Access to and Reimbursement for Telehealth Services



AAPM&R's Health Policy, Practice and Advocacy Committee

Turning Priorities into Progress

- ☑ Alongside the Arizona Medical Association, your Academy closely monitored the progress of HB 2181, which proposed allowing physical therapists (PTs) to prescribe durable medical equipment without physician involvement. AAPM&R actively opposed this bill and it did not advance in the 2025 legislative session.
- ☑ Your Academy urged the Department of Energy (DOE) to reverse a rule removing key accessibility standards for new federally funded construction. Following strong advocacy, the DOE paused implementation, preserving equitable access for individuals with disabilities.
- ☑ Members of your Academy revised the AAPM&R Position Statement on Opioid Prescribing and published it in the *PM&R Journal* in August. Thank you: Anthony E. Chiodo MD, FAAPMR; Thiru M. Annaswamy MD, MA, FAAPMR; Diane W. Braza MD, FAAPMR; Andrew S. Friedman MD, FAAPMR; J. Jason Miller MD, FAAPMR; Ameet S. Nagpal MD, FAAPMR; Samman Shahpar MD, FAAPMR; and Saloni Sharma MD, Lac, FAAPMR, for your thoughtful discussions and deliberate revisions.
- ☑ In December 2024, AAPM&R hosted a first of its kind Technology Summit with Academy leaders, including co-chairs, Thiru Annaswamy, MD, FAAPMR and Robert Rinaldi, MD, FAAPMR, and technology industry leaders in attendance. This year, the Academy shared the Summit Synthesis (a summary of the meeting), capturing attendee recommendations regarding use of health technology to improve patient care and reduce provider burden and is planning to provide practice-based education to help members optimize the use of novel technologies.



AAPM&R's Health Policy and Legislation Committee's Hill Day Visit

- ☑ In March, Congress extended telehealth waivers for Medicare patients through September 30, 2025. This was a major policy win for PM&R, and your Academy continues to advocate for permanent or long-term legislation ensuring access to these services.
- ☑ An Academy-sponsored policy proposal was successfully adopted as official policy by the American Medical Association House of Delegates (AMA HOD) during their 2025 Annual Meeting in June. The AMA will now work with relevant stakeholders to oppose caps on indirect costs in federal grants and restore the ability of research institutions to negotiate these cost rates.
- ☑ Congress included a temporary 2.5% increase to the Medicare physician payment conversion factor for 2026 in a legislative package that passed earlier this year. While it is unfortunate that the legislation did not implement a sustainable long-term update mechanism that would account for practice cost inflation, your Academy will continue working with the physician community and champions in Congress to enact fair payment reform.
- ☑ Following extensive advocacy from the Academy and allied stakeholders, including the Regulatory Relief Coalition, champions in Congress reintroduced the *Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act* (H.R. 3514/S. 1816). This Academy-endorsed bipartisan legislation would codify groundbreaking prior authorization reforms for the Medicare Advantage program recently implemented by CMS, and it has been a top legislative priority for the Academy in recent Congresses. Your Academy has been engaged in extensive advocacy to push this legislation forward since it was reintroduced and initiated a grassroots advocacy campaign for PM&R physicians to urge their congressional representatives to cosponsor this important legislation.



AAPM&R's Technology Summit



The American Medical Association's House of Delegates Meeting



AAPM&R's Reimbursement and Policy Review Committee

Thank You, Volunteers!

Your time, expertise and passion fuel our advocacy, education and community-building efforts. Whether you served on a committee, contributed to a position statement or represented PM&R in national conversations—your dedication makes a lasting impact. Thank you for helping us move psychiatry forward!

How to Get Involved

AAPM&R remains actively engaged in shaping the policies that impact psychiatrists and their patients—ensuring the voice of PM&R is heard at both state and federal levels through ongoing advocacy and direct collaboration with policymakers. Learn more about AAPM&R's advocacy efforts at aapmr.org/advocacy or scan the QR code to the right and get involved today!

