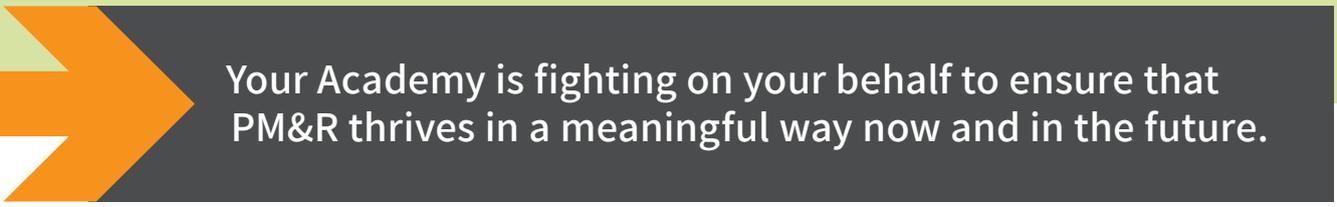


No one can do what you do or care for patients like you do.

Physiatry's work is defined by our patients' drive for a functional life, and our passion to help them achieve quality of life. The clinical diversity of PM&R strengthens our specialty and the impact we have on our patients' lives and in the field of medicine.



Your Academy is fighting on your behalf to ensure that PM&R thrives in a meaningful way now and in the future.

We continue to advocate for our priorities as the health care landscape transitions on many fronts, including: health care delivery, payment reform and accountability, quality improvement, and a capacity for disability and rehabilitation research.

All for you, your patients, and our specialty...

To do this, we're making sure you have the data to measure your worth, improve quality and practice efficiencies, and benchmark your work against other physiatrists.

The **Spine Quality Outcomes Database (SQOD)** launched in 2016 in collaboration with the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS). As a multi-specialty registry, the SQOD measures the continuum of care from initial patient contact, through intervention and follow up, which means AAPM&R is helping collect data to show physiatry's impact across the patient care continuum.



To date, almost 100 participants across more than 25 practice sites are submitting quality data to SQOD that may help achieve the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) requirements, Maintenance of Certification® (MOC®) Part IV requirement, and practice-specific quality improvement opportunities.

Quality Measure Development: AAPM&R strongly advocates to CMS on issues that directly impact physiatry. Our members help develop physiatry-focused measures to streamline reporting and assist with MIPS performance scoring. Your Academy worked with the PCPI Foundation to convene a cross-specialty, multidisciplinary technical expert panel to identify and define new measures for quality improvement and for use in the Academy's qualified clinical data registry. These measures represent the first effort to develop meaningful measures for physiatrists that are specific to the conditions they see and the patients they manage.

Academy members serve on multi-stakeholder workgroups to advance the physiatric perspective for quality measurement. Examples include:

- ➔ CMS/RTI International Technical Expert Panel (TEP) to develop and maintain quality measures for the Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Quality Reporting Programs (QRP) represented by Kurt Hoppe, MD, FAAPMR
- ➔ NQF Measure Applications Partnership (MAP) Committee Post-Acute Care/Long-Term Care represented by Kurt Hoppe, MD, FAAPMR
- ➔ PCPI Quality Improvement (QI) Advisory Committee represented by Alan K. Novick, MD, FAAPMR
- ➔ PCPI National Quality Registry Network (NQRN) Steering Committee represented by Andrew Friedman, MD, FAAPMR
- ➔ PCPI Measure Advisory Committee represented by John Leshner, MD, MPH, FAAPMR

Episode-Based Cost Measure Development: MACRA requires cost measures implemented in MIPS to include consideration of patient condition groups and care episode groups (referred to as "episode groups"). Academy members, Andrew Gordon, MD, PhD, Chloe Slocum, MD, FAAPMR, and Kirk Whetstone, MD, FAAPMR, were instrumental in developing the knee arthroplasty measure; serving on a Clinical Subcommittee to provide detailed clinical input on preliminary measure specifications during in-person and webinar meetings.

To do this, we're committed to pursuing fair reimbursement for physician-led care and compensation in the new value-driven health care delivery model.

AMA/Specialty Society RVS Update Committee (RUC): The RUC is a multispecialty committee dedicated to describing the resources required to provide physician services which the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) considers in developing Relative Value Units (RVUs). Your RUC advisor Matthew Grierson, MD, FAAPMR successfully argued for higher valuation of codes for percutaneous implantation of neurostimulator electrode array. As a result, physician payment for these codes will more than double in 2018.

Compensation Survey: In 2017, your Academy conducted a PM&R-specific Compensation Study. The results help support career decisions and arm physiatrists with data for negotiations.

Health Care Delivery Models: Your Academy's Innovative Payment and Practice Models (IPPM) Committee, led by Christopher Standaert, MD, FAAPMR is advocating for physiatry's interests in the development of alternative practice models (APMs) under Medicare's value-based payment rules. Your Academy, represented by William Adair, III, MD, FAAPMR also officially endorsed and joined the American Society of Anesthesiologists' (ASA) Perioperative Surgical Home (PSH) model of care including physiatrists, which aims to significantly improve patient care, quality and reduce costs.

Your Academy is fighting on your behalf to ensure that PM&R thrives in a meaningful way now and in the future.

To do this, we're acting as your voice in Washington D.C. and beyond to support the values of physiatry, and position the specialty and its practitioners for success.

Congressional Testimony: In March 2017, Marlis Gonzalez-Fernandez, MD, PhD, FAAPMR, testified before Congress and submitted formal comments on the CMS Proposed Rule—Special Payment Provisions for Custom-Fabricated Orthotics and Prosthetics in the Medicare Program. This rule is in response to serious physician and patient concerns expressed last fall regarding an initial CMS proposal to make changes to the Orthotics & Prosthetics program.

State Advocacy: AAPM&R's grassroots efforts ensure that physiatrists are aware of the health care changes taking place both nationally and locally. Staff works with members on important issues including opioid prescribing and pain management, scope of practice, and Affordable Care Act implementation.

National Quality Partners™ (NQP) Taskforce: Your Academy is leading the conversation on opioid prescribing and pain management with representation by Andrew Friedman, MD, FAAPMR on the NQP Opioid Stewardship Action Team. This team identifies strategies and tactics to help physicians, clinicians, and other prescribers better manage patients' pain while reducing the risk of opioid addiction.

Comment Letters: The Academy works with the Department of Health and Human Services to provide feedback on proposed rules of critical relevance and uniqueness to physiatrists and their patients. In 2017, we submitted comments on more than 25 letters covering topics such as the Physician Fee Schedule, Quality Payment Program, Impact Act, and improving the Local Coverage Determination (LCD) process.

ACADEMY DAYS ON THE HILL



➔ Leadership Fellows Advocacy Day:

The 2015–2017 Academy Leadership Program Fellows assembled in July for 2 days of in-depth discussions on the current health care landscape with a focus on PM&R and advocacy.

➔ Health Policy and Legislation (HP&L) Committee Advocacy Day:

During their annual Capitol Hill Day in March, HP&L recommended that Congress pursue health care reforms that preserve patient access to affordable, high-quality health care coverage of rehabilitation and habilitation care. The committee also spoke with legislative staffers regarding other bills including the Sports Medicine Licensure Clarity Act.

➔ Voice of Rehab Advocacy Day:

In June, AAPM&R co-sponsored a Congressional Briefing on "The Value of Rehabilitation and Habilitation Services and Devices in America's Healthcare System." Your Academy worked with 3 national coalitions, including 60 national rehabilitation and disability organizations to make this briefing possible.

To do this, we're providing ways for our members to get involved, and band together to be a stronger, unified voice for the specialty.



PARTICIPATE in discussions on **PhyzForum** to find new ideas to meet practice challenges, and exchange ideas and experiences about new health care. Be sure to read the Health Policy Blog, too.



RESPOND to **Advocacy Action Alerts** that are emailed to you when your support is needed to provide input on important health policy issues.



TRACK legislation in your state via the State Affairs and Legislation tracking page on the Academy's website.



SUBMIT comments to CMS on a variety of physiatric issues and legislation that impacts the specialty.



READ *The Physiatrist* every month for the most up-to-date information on all aspects of PM&R, including our Advocacy efforts.



REGISTER for **FREE Academy Webinars** to be the first in the know about important topics and issues affecting the specialty and member physiatrists.

“There is so much emphasis now on value. Everybody's asking the question: does what you do add value to a patient? Are you adding value to their lives? Are you adding value to their employers who are paying the premiums for their health care? And I think now more than any other time, we have to prove not just functional value but economic value.”

— Michael Hatzakis, Jr., MD, FAAPMR

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American Academy of
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Physicians Adding Quality to Life®