

Talking Points for Proposed Physician Fee Cuts

- Ask that the Representative please contact CMS to express serious concern with the recent proposal from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) to cut Medicare payments to physicians who manage the treatment of patients with cancer.
- CMS is proposing to cut the payment levels for the services provided by oncologists by as much as 40 percent in some cases.
- If this proposal stands, access to vital services like chemotherapy will be placed at risk. **Please explain how the cuts will impact your ability to treat your patients.**
- The proposed payment cuts are based on a flawed survey that comes to the wrong conclusion that the cost of oncology services dropped substantially over the last five years. **Give an example that demonstrates that costs for providing oncology services have increased over the past 5 years.**
- Reiterate how these cuts will negatively impact your ability to treat your patients and ask again that they contact CMS.
- Thank them for their time, and offer to be a resource for that staff person and the Representative on any issue related to cancer.

Instructions for Calling your Representative

Ask to speak to the Legislative Assistant who deals with healthcare issues. Also ask for his/her email address so you can follow up by email (some offices have a policy to not give out email addresses). If the Health LA answers your call, explain that you are a constituent (Being a voting constituent matters!) and provide other relevant information about who you are (an oncologist, where you practice, that you are a member of ASCO, the number of patients you treat, etc.) **Please see above for talking points about the issue.**

If you are directed to voicemail, leave a message stating who you are, why you are calling, and ask that they return your call.

Always be polite and respectful, even if the legislator disagrees with your position, and be sure to thank them for their time.

Contact ASCO's Cancer Policy and Clinical Affairs Department with any questions at 571-483-1670 or publicpolicy@asco.org.