

Hi David,

Thanks for your well-wishes on my upcoming presidency of the NYSAFP.

I read your article. It was very well-stated and expresses many of my frustrations with the distraction posed by administrative requirements for reimbursement for family physicians.

The NYSAFP continues to advocate locally in the state legislature, and nationally at the AAFP to streamline the administrative burden we face in clinical practice.

On February 28th, guided by our legislative consultants at Reid, McNally and Savage, over 50 practicing family physicians, residents and students met virtually with their state representatives in Albany, advocating for support of our legislative priorities.

One legislative priority is support for a universal healthcare coverage through a single-payer system. Legislation we support to create the NY Health Plan This bill was proposed is sponsored by the Senate and Assembly Health Committee chairs, by Senator Gustavo Rivera and Assemblyman Richard Gottfried. We stressed to our representatives that a single payer will constrain costs by eliminating the multiple payers and their multiple administrative rules and procedures and replacing it with a uniform, standardized system. By reducing burdensome billing expenses, administrative waste in the insurance industry, monopolistic pricing of drugs and medical devices, and fraud, New York Health would save over \$70 billion a year. Empowering physicians to collectively bargain with the single payer is an essential component of our position on single payer or any reform model.

Short of adopting a single-payer system, we advocated for supporting initiatives to provide administrative simplification/streamlining of insurance plan policies and procedures and a requirement for public hearings for insurer premium increase requests. We presented a concept paper recommending five measures to streamline our costly and cumbersome health insurance billing and payment system in New York State. The paper also recommends that a new requirement be put in place to require that public hearings be held to consider insurer requests for premium increases. Below is an outline of these recommendations to streamline our health care billing and payment system:

- A standardized eligibility verification system that can be used by physicians and other providers to confirm a patient's eligibility by having all insurers participate in such a system
- Requiring standardized co-pays, deductibles, and co-insurance amounts for patients to simplify the benefits for patients patient use of their benefits
- A standardized coordination of benefits process requiring all insurers to participate in a shared database exchange to enable health care providers to conduct a the same coordination of benefits determination for patients with more than one plan regardless of the plan(s) involved
- Requiring the use of standardized billing and appeal forms by insurers
- Requiring timely and periodic payments to providers on a schedule using a prospective or projected payment system, which could be reconciled on a quarterly basis.

I understand that advocating in Albany is one thing, and thing and recognizing relief in our practices is another. Easing the administrative burden felt by family physicians remains a NYSAFP priority. I look forward to your thoughts about how we can continue to work towards this.

Andy

