Seema Verma, MPH  
Administrator  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Hubert H. Humphrey Building  
200 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Administrator Verma:

We write regarding the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ (CMS) 2020 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) final rule published on November 15, 2019 (84 Fed Reg 62568 et seq.). Concerns about whether the implementation of certain aspects of this rule will reduce access to health services have been raised to us. To better respond to these concerns, we are requesting additional information regarding the process by which CMS reached the decision to reduce the reimbursement for services furnished by certain providers in 2021 to accommodate for the increases to the values of the office/outpatient evaluation and management (E/M) codes.

Specifically, we ask that you respond to the following two questions no later than February 21, 2020.

1. What methodology and data did CMS use to calculate each estimated specialty level impact associated with implementing the changes to the office/outpatient E/M code set, including an individual breakdown for each specialty included in the “Other” category? Please provide a description of the factors considered by the agency in establishing negative redistributive adjustments to the work and practice expense relative value units (RVUs) of each impacted specialty as outlined in Table 120.

2. CMS indicated it would consider additional information when preparing the final 2021 fee schedule. What additional information is most valuable to CMS? Will CMS take into consideration how these changes may impact beneficiary access to each specialty? If so, how?
Thank you for your consideration of our request. Our collective efforts are crucial to ensuring that Medicare beneficiaries have access to appropriate health services.

Sincerely,

Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress

Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress

Rep. John Joyce, M.D.
Member of Congress

Rep. Ted S. Yoho, DVM
Member of Congress

Rep. Susan Wild
Member of Congress

Rep. Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

Rep. Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

Rep. Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Rep. Mike Kelly
Member of Congress

Rep. Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress

Rep. David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

Rep. Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress
Rep. Steven M. Palazzo  
Member of Congress

Rep. Andy Harris, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Member of Congress

Rep. John Shimkus  
Member of Congress

Rep. Steve Womack  
Member of Congress

Rep. James Comer  
Member of Congress

Rep. Russ Fulcher  
Member of Congress

Rep. Jared Golden  
Member of Congress

Rep. T.J. Cox  
Member of Congress

Rep. Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress

Rep. Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress

Rep. Don Young  
Member of Congress

Rep. Ben Cline  
Member of Congress
Rep. John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

Rep. Lance Gooden
Member of Congress

Rep. John B. Larson
Member of Congress

Rep. Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

Rep. Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress

Rep. John Katko
Member of Congress

Rep. Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

Rep. Jim Hagedorn
Member of Congress

Rep. Cedric Richmond
Member of Congress

Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress

Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Rep. Trent Kelly
Member of Congress

Rep. David Rouzer
Member of Congress

Rep. Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress
Rep. Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress

Rep. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress

Rep. Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

Rep. Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress

Rep. Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress

Rep. Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

Rep. French Hill
Member of Congress

Rep. Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress

Rep. Mike Bost
Member of Congress

Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

Rep. Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

Rep. Thomas Massie
Member of Congress

Rep. Ralph Norman
Member of Congress

Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress
cc: Demetrios Kouzoukas, Principal Deputy Administrator for Medicare and Director
John Brooks, Principal Deputy Director