



ACTION ALERT

Oppose Prior Authorization and Further Cuts to Imaging Services

In an effort to address the national deficit, the Joint Committee on Deficit Reduction (otherwise known as the Super Committee), was appointed to draft legislation that must produce \$1.5 trillion in spending reductions over the next 10 years. As part of their policy discussions the Super Committee is considering several policies which would negatively impact the medical specialties that provide advanced imaging services.

Specifically, the policies being considered include:

- *Requiring prior authorization of “high cost” Medicare services;*
- *An increase in the Equipment Utilization rate which would drive practice expense relative values down, reducing physician reimbursement for imaging services; and*
- *Expanding the Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction (MPPR) to the professional component of imaging services when more than one imaging study is done in one session.*

Our Societies are concerned that the Super Committee is likely to include some, or all, of these policies in their final legislative proposal to reduce the national debt which is expected to be finalized by early November.

It is critical that all physicians with Senators or Representatives serving on the Super Committee contact their Member of Congress and express their concerns over the impending reductions to reimbursement and prior authorization. If you are not represented by a legislator on the Super Committee, you can still contact your legislators in opposition to further imaging cuts.

SUPER COMMITTEE MEMBERS INCLUDE:

Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT); Sen. John Kerry (D-MA); Sen. Jon Kyl (R-AZ); Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA), Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH); Sen. Patrick Toomey (R-PA); Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-CA); Rep. Dave Camp (R-MI); Rep. James Clyburn (D-SC); Rep. Jeb Hensarling (R-TX); Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI); and Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD).

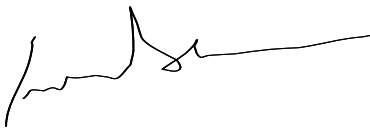
Call To Action

- 1) Share this information with your colleagues.
 - Review the ASNC, SCCT, SCMR, and NASCI talking points in opposition to these policies.

- 2) Call your Legislator or send them a letter urging them avoid implementation of these devastating policies.
- 3) Meet with your member **NOW**.

Attached are talking points, contact information, and a sample letter to help guide your communications with your lawmakers.

Thank you for your ongoing advocacy on behalf of the field.



Leslee J. Shaw, PhD
ASNC President



Geoffrey D. Rubin, MD
NASCI President



Scott D. Flamm, MD
SCMR President



James K. Min, MD
SCCT President