



## AACU Priorities for the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress

### **SUPPORTING EARLY AND ACCURATE DISEASE DETECTION, RESEARCH-LED PREVENTION STRATEGIES**

Protect patients from the devastating impact of prostate cancer misdiagnosis by making DNA Specimen Provenance Assay (DSPA) testing available to Medicare beneficiaries for prostate biopsies.

Reform the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) by including medical specialty physicians on the panel, requiring the publication of research plans, and establishing an advisory board to disseminate evidence-based recommendations.

### **PROMOTING PHYSICIAN-LED UROLOGIC CARE AND ENSURE PATIENT ACCESS TO EFFECTIVE TREATMENTS**

Standardize electronic prior authorization for prescription drugs and require employer-sponsored health plans that employ step therapy to implement a clear process by which a physician can request exceptions.

Extend COVID-19 waivers that ensure that telehealth services are covered and remain available permanently. Eliminate geographic and originating site restrictions on telehealth so that Medicare covers services provided wherever a physician or a patient is located.

Require public disclosure of the total amount of rebates and discounts provided by manufacturers to pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and how much of those rebates are passed back to health plans. Prohibit PBMs from requiring a health plan or enrollee to use a pharmacy that the PBM itself has an ownership interest in.

### **ENCOURAGING PATIENT-CENTERED MEDICARE REFORM EFFORTS**

Reduce the administrative burdens associated with Medicare to improve efficiency and patient care. Advance the implementation of Electronic Health Records (EHRs) by developing interoperability standards and retooling CMS' Advancing Care Information (ACI) performance category under MIPS.

Advance site-neutral payments to encourage the transfer of more procedures to ambulatory surgery centers, a more affordable alternative to hospital-based treatment.

### **MINIMIZING DEFENSIVE MEDICINE AND ENHANCING PATIENT SAFETY WITH A WELL-TRAINED PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE**

Increase Medicare and VA funding for graduate medical education particularly for teaching hospitals in rural areas and in underserved communities where workforce shortages are the most acute.

Protect Medicare and state physician supervision requirements to ensure all medical services are performed within a provider's scope of practice. Promote physician-led team-based care to protect the health and safety of patients.

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