

THE FUTURE OF CARDIOLOGY

issues that keep cardiologists and practice administrators up at night ...

- The effects to practices from the 2010 Physician Fee Schedule, which slashed Cardiology payments for critical diagnostic procedures by 15-27 percent (in addition to the SGR roller coaster physicians face every year)
- The “integration question:” How does hospital affiliation affect practices and patients?
- The chipping away of physicians’ rights to own assets such as imaging equipment and specialty hospitals
- Congressional healthcare “reforms” that will weaken physicians’ ability to provide critical diagnostic services to their patients and serve outlying/rural populations
- Further restrictions on physicians’ ability to order the right scan at the right time

These concerns have a significant impact on how cardiologists practice today and their ability to provide the best care, in the best place, for their patients. And instead of remaining on the sidelines, our members have decided to take action.

Cardiology Advocacy Alliance: fighting for you and your patients

The Cardiology Advocacy Alliance (CAA) is a business league that represents the interests of more than 5,000 cardiologists nationwide. CAA educates the professional cardiovascular community about regulatory and legislative issues that affect their ability to provide high-quality patient care, represents the common interests of the cardiovascular patient and professional on such issues, and encourages members to advocate for their patients and their practices.

CAA’s 2011 priorities include:

- Making the voices of both private and integrated practices heard on Capitol Hill and with CMS and other regulatory agencies on key issues.
- Fighting cuts to Medicare physician payments that create an unsustainable environment for cardiologists to remain in private practice. This affects both patient access to critical cardiac services and integrated physicians’ compensation models.
- Protecting the rights of physicians to own assets, including imaging equipment and heart hospitals.
- Improving quality, maintaining patient access to care and ensuring appropriate imaging utilization through lab accreditation, physician credentialing and appropriateness criteria, rather than through cuts to imaging payments, pre-authorization mandates and other impediments to the physician-patient relationship.
- Representing cardiology practices regarding Meaningful Use and E-Prescribing criteria, PQRI reporting and other quality measurement programs.

“If we remain silent, we have no right to complain.”



How to join forces with CAA

Investing in CAA is only \$100 per practice physician, a reduced rate for 2011! Contact Executive Director Margo Burrage at 734.878.2108 or mburrage@cardiologycaa.com, or visit our website: cardiologycaa.com.