

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 18, 2018

The Honorable Seema Verma
Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

Dear Administrator Verma:

We are writing regarding policies in the CY 2019 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) Proposed Rule that appear to be inappropriately reducing reimbursement rates for revascularization procedures for vulnerable patients with peripheral artery disease (PAD) and related comorbidities. Revascularization – the clearing of PAD-related clogs in a patient’s arteries (typically in the legs) – is a critical tool in the fight against PAD-related amputation.

Earlier this year, we sent a letter to the Administration regarding concerns that far too many individuals are receiving amputations relating to PAD. Non-traumatic amputations simply should not have to occur, yet, every year, tens of thousands of Americans, a disproportionate number of whom are racial and ethnic minorities, undergo non-traumatic amputation as a medical intervention for conditions such as PAD. As we continue to engage with the Administration on implementing a comprehensive approach to reducing non-traumatic amputations relating to PAD, it is important that we protect innovative technologies that save limbs, such as revascularization.

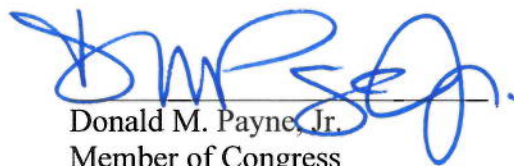
Unfortunately, in the CY 2019 PFS Proposed Rule, CMS is proposing to cut payments for revascularization in the office-setting by up to 30% or more for critical revascularization codes (37225 – 37231, among others). These cuts derive in large part from CMS’ proposal to implement an update to the equipment and supply pricing data in the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule database. We are aware that some CMS supply inputs *have no associated pricing data at all*. These include, for example, the “reentry device” (supply code SD255) and the “sheath shuttle” (supply code SD251).

In order to protect a critical tool in the arsenal against amputation, we urge you to work with stakeholders to properly value revascularization services in the 2019 PFS Final Rule as we expect that stakeholders will be submitting data on these missing inputs and other misvalued services. We appreciate your attention on this matter and look forward to a satisfactory resolution to this issue in the 2019 PFS Final Rule.

Sincerely,



Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Peter J. Roskam
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Glenn "G.T." Thompson
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



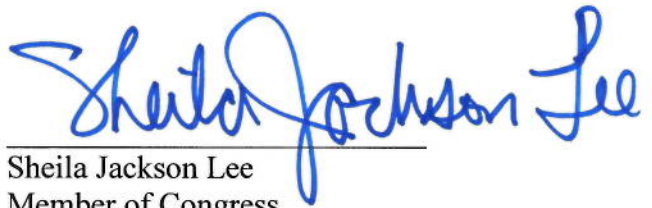
Tom Reed
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress



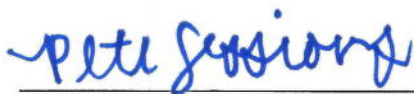
Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



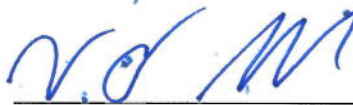
Dennis A. Ross
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Fred Upton
Member of Congress



Leonard Lance
Member of Congress



Luke Messer
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David P. Roe, M.D.
Member of Congress



Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress