



FLORIDA ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
STRONG MEDICINE FOR FLORIDA

6720 Atlantic Boulevard • Jacksonville, Florida 32211-8730
Telephone 904.726.0944 • Fax 904.726.0923

May 2, 2011

Lori Heim, MD
Board Chair
American Academy of Family Physicians
11400 Tomahawk Creek Parkway
Leawood, KS 66211-2672

Dear Dr. Heim:

On behalf of the 4,000 practicing family physicians, residents and medical student members of the Florida Academy of Family Physicians, our Board of Directors respectfully request that the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Family Physicians officially resign its membership on the Relative Value Scale Update Committee (RUC) and join other organizations in the lawsuit that will create a national awareness of the RUC's financial conflicts and CMS's sole reliance on it for medical services valuations. These actions will acknowledge the AAFP's dissatisfaction with the RUC's failure to adequately represent primary care physicians and its failure to provide full transparency in its membership and activities. We further recommend that these actions be accompanied by specific suggestions of appropriate replacement mechanisms for valuation of physician medical services, ensuring that primary care physicians are adequately compensated by CMS for the care provided to their patients.

The RUC has failed our patients by refusing to recognize the value of primary care physicians and the teams they supervise in the course of providing patient care, and therefore has diminished the importance of primary care in this country. We believe the lack of incentives and the continued devaluation of primary care are, in part, due to current payment policies established by the RUC which favor procedural-based subspecialty care and promote fragmentation. Florida family physicians are concerned that the AAFP's continued participation in the RUC under its current policies may mistakenly propagate their continued lack of recognition of the incentives required to motivate family physicians to adopt the efficiencies of the medical home, encourage medical students to choose family medicine as a specialty and persuade payers to recognize the intrinsic value of primary care in reforming the US healthcare delivery system.

www.fafp.org

The mission of the Florida Academy of Family Physicians is to promote excellence in health care for Florida citizens, to advance and represent the specialty of family medicine, and to serve the unique needs of its members.

As a result of the passage of the Accountable Care Act, CMS is obligated to correct misvalued codes and has already publicly acknowledged that this is their duty. The Florida Chapter believes it is in our collective best interest to pursue a strategy that does this in a fair and equitable way. Therefore, we recommend that the AAFP resign its RUC membership and join like-minded organizations in the lawsuit mentioned above. We believe this is an approach that will lead to fixing the problems created by the RUC.

Thank you for your continued leadership, and your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you implementing healthcare reform and improving the quality of life for all our patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Flareau MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bruce Flareau, MD
President