



COLLEGE of AMERICAN  
PATHOLOGISTS

# CAP Update: Advancing Pathology Through Advocacy and Laboratory/Member Programs

Arizona Society of Pathologists  
Fall Virtual Meeting

Kathryn T. Knight, MD, FCAP  
Speaker, CAP House of Delegates

November 14, 2020

# How the CAP Is Helping You


























- **Influencing Public Policy and Amplifying Pathology's Voice in Washington, DC, and Your State**
- **Responding During the COVID-19 Pandemic as a Trusted Resource**

# **Influencing Public Policy and Amplifying Pathology's Voice**

**To ensure pathologists are treated fairly and paid for the work they do**

# Strength of CAP Advocacy

- CAP was founded as *the* national advocacy organization for pathologists.
- We're set up as a 501(c)6 organization so we have unlimited lobbying capacity for our members.

	College of American Pathologists	American Society for Clinical Pathology	Association for Molecular Pathology	United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology	Association of Pathology Chairs
Has a 501(c)6 Tax Status					
Has Unlimited Lobbying Capability					
Spends \$10 Million on Lobbying for Pathologists Annually					
Has a Political Action Committee					
Has a robust Advocacy Program					



# Medicare's Efforts to Shift Reimbursement to Primary Care

- Over the last decade, health system changes have sought to invest more in primary care.
  - Back in 2007, increases to evaluation/management (E/M) services led to a -7% cut to pathology services.
- In 2019, CMS approved a proposal for E/M revaluation that will result in a redistribution of \$7 billion in Medicare payments from **specialists to primary care physicians** in 2021.
- Reversing and mitigating cuts to pathologists is the top priority for the CAP and our lobbying efforts.

# Evaluation and Management (E/M) Services Change Is Driving Cuts to Specialists

- **Estimated impact on pathologists in 2021:**
  - -9% overall decrease to pathology services.
  - -\$113 million per year to partially fund the increases.
- **Budget neutrality provisions in the Medicare program require offsets/cuts to pathologists, other specialists to fund increases to primary care services.**



# Evaluation and Management (E/M) Services Change Is Driving Cuts to Specialists

Specialists hit hard under the proposal for 2021:

- Radiology -11%
- Cardiac Surgery - 9%
- Pathology - 9%
- Anesthesiology - 8%
- Emergency - 6%
- Ophthalmology - 6%

Providers benefitting from the 2021 proposal:

- Internists 4%
- Nurse practitioners 8%
- General practice 8%
- Family practice 13%
- Hematology/Oncology 14%
- Rheumatology 16%
- Endocrinology 17%

# Advocacy to Fight the Medicare Cuts

- CAP Advocacy is working with the AMA and other physicians negatively affected by the cuts.
- We are asking Congress to mitigate the reductions to all non-E/M services by waiving budget neutrality.
- We are mobilizing pathologists to ask their members of Congress to support our specialty.

**#fightthecuts**



# Advocacy to Fight the Medicare Cuts

- **During the summer months, more than 40 CAP members virtually met with congressional offices.**
- **The CAP is a leader in a multi-specialty coalition pushing Congress to make all physicians whole by waiving budget neutrality.**
  - **Unspent moneys in the Provider Relief Fund could offset the costs for waiving budget neutrality for one year.**
- **The CAP is working with legislators in the House and Senate to introduce legislation and rally support for it.**

# Update on Advocacy to Fight the Medicare Cuts

- **Reps. Bera and Bucshon led a sign-on letter to urge House leaders to stop the cuts.**
  - 239 House members signed the letter.
- **We are reviewing legislative proposals to delay the cut by one or two years.**
  - Such a move would buy us additional time to determine a permanent fix to these reductions.

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

October 19, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy,

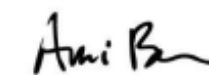
We write to bring to your attention a matter of great urgency. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will be issuing new payment policies in the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule for 2021. The changes have many positive attributes, including improvements for maternity care and much-needed payment increases for physicians delivering primary and complex office-based care to some of our nation's most vulnerable patients.

Unfortunately, a statutory budget neutrality rule requires that any increases in Medicare payments for these office visits, also known as evaluation and management (E/M) services, must be offset by corresponding decreases. As a result, many specialists now face substantial cuts beginning on January 1, 2021, if Congress does not act before the end of the year. Payment cuts of this magnitude will surely strain a health care system that is already stressed by the COVID-19 pandemic and could jeopardize patient access to medically necessary services.

In order to safeguard beneficiaries' access to care during this pandemic, we as Congress should examine possible bipartisan solutions to address excessively steep cuts. We encourage you to incorporate the resulting policy changes in any upcoming legislation moving through the House.

Health care professionals across the spectrum are reeling from the effects of the COVID-19 emergency as they continue to serve patients during this global pandemic. Thank you for considering our request and for your continued leadership during these trying times.

Sincerely,



Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Larry Bucshon, M.D.  
Member of Congress

# Fight the Cuts

- Go to [cap.org/advocacy](http://cap.org/advocacy) to join the fight.
- Stay updated by following us on Twitter (@CAPDCAdvocacy)

## Advocacy



Our advocacy update is your source for the latest news. [Read the current update.](#)



### Fight the CMS Cuts

Sign up to stop steep Medicare cuts to pathology services

[Learn More](#) →

**CAP Advocacy**  
2,378 Tweets

**CAP ADVOCACY**  
@CAPDCAdvocacy

The @Pathologists office fighting for the policy and advocacy issues concerning members of the College of American Pathologists.

Washington, DC [cap.org/advocacy](http://cap.org/advocacy) Joined April 2010

585 Following 1,115 Followers

Tweets Tweets & replies Media Likes

Pinned Tweet  
**CAP Advocacy** @CAPDCAdvocacy · Sep 23  
The CAP needs you to join the fight against the upcoming 9% Medicare cuts and contact your federal legislators: [capatholo.gy/33T2hDZ](http://capatholo.gy/33T2hDZ). #fightthecuts

#fightthecuts

COLLEGE of AMERICAN PATHOLOGISTS  
Advocacy

### Learn more about...

The Strength of  
CAP Advocacy

State Pathology  
Societies

Toolkit to Fight  
Medicare Cuts

PathPAC

# Medicare Increase to Molecular Pathology Interpretations in 2021

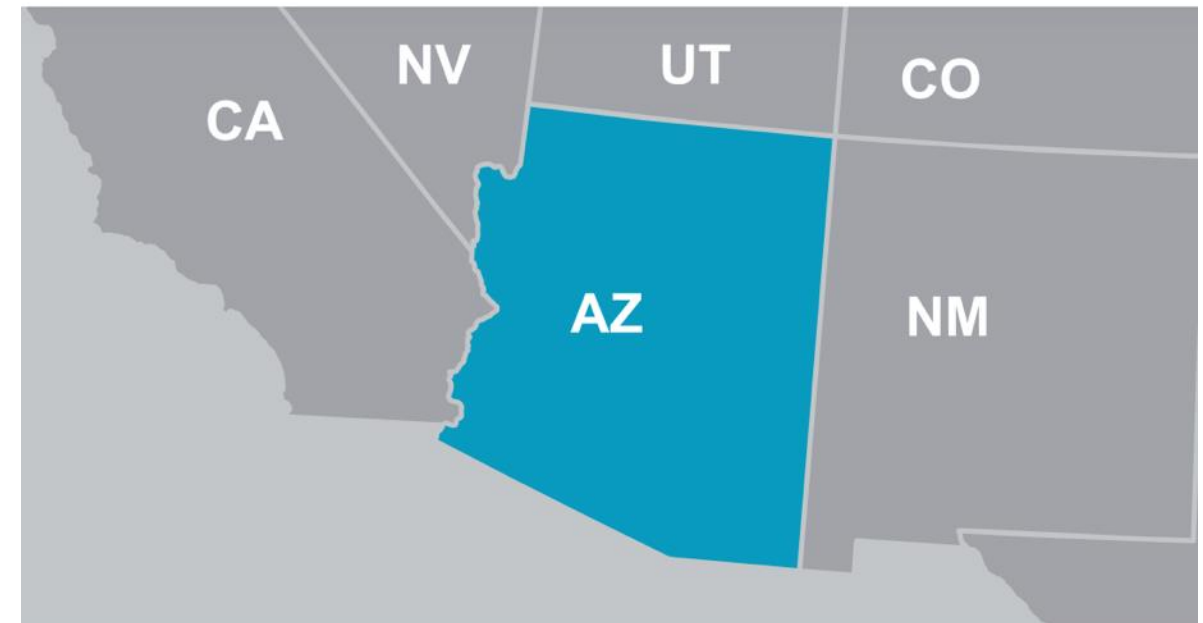
HCPCS Code	DESCRIPTION	Work RVU 2020	RUC Rec Work RVU	Work RVU 2021	% Change 2020-2021
G0452	Molecular pathology procedure; physician interpretation and report	0.37	0.93	0.93	151%

- The molecular interpretation was identified as misvalued in 2018, and the CAP successfully worked to protect the value of the service.
- Working with the American Medical Association/Specialty Society Relative Value Update Committee, we recommended an increase to the physician work value of the service.
- The Medicare program agrees; and, for 2021, announced a payment increase of 124%!



# Update on Legislation in Arizona

- **We've accomplished a lot together through the years:**
  - 2015: Direct access testing law, while ensuring liability immunity for pathologists
  - 2017: Out-of-network law
  - 2019: Secured changes to network adequacy rules for Medicaid managed care plans
  - 2019: Secure amendments to genetic testing law to remove informed consent requirement
- **Great examples of a successful partnership between ASP-CAP!**

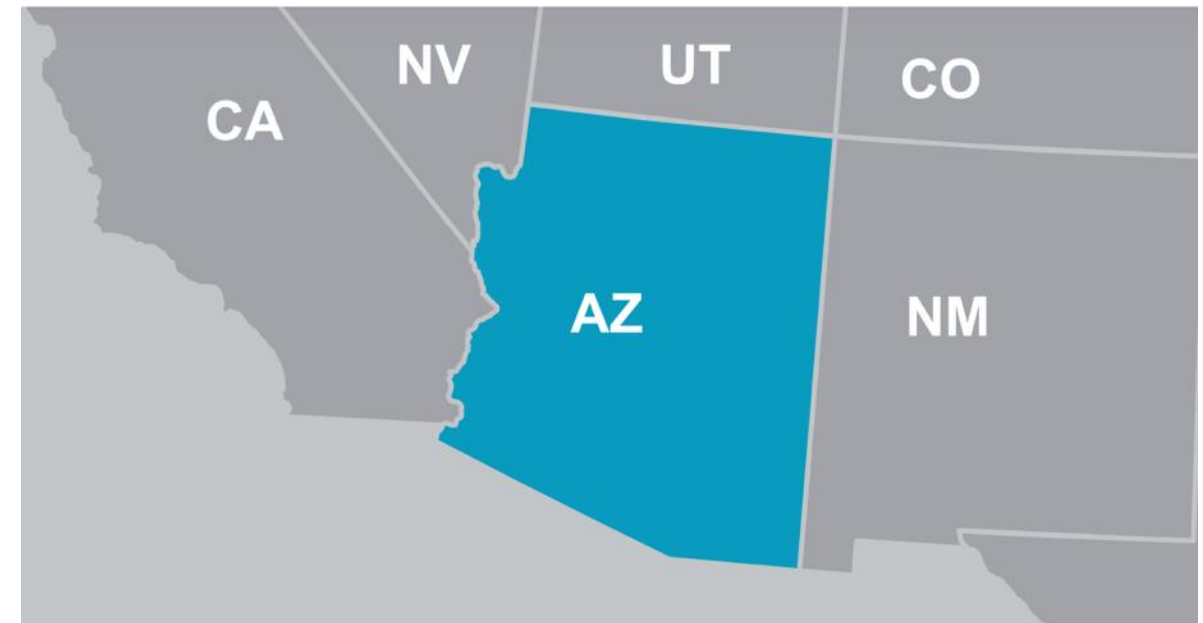




# Update on Legislation in Arizona

continued

- **This year, we jointly contracted a lobbyist to pass additional amendments to the direct access testing law:**
  - Amendments would ensure testing is subject to proficiency testing.
  - The state pharmacist association blocked our amendments, but we sought a compromise to disclose PT status when providing results to patients.
  - However, COVID-19 shutdown the legislative session before it could move forward.



# CAP State Pathology Society Initiative

- **We strongly believe in strengthening our relationships with state societies.**
  - Together, we can successfully advocate for pathologists at the state and federal levels.
- **The CAP has initiated a multiyear strategy to support state pathology societies.**
  - For example, we launched a virtual meeting platform for state societies to use.
- **Go to [cap.org/states](https://cap.org/states) for more state resources and information.**



# **Responding During the COVID-19 Pandemic as a Trusted Resource**

**To ensure the quality of laboratory testing and diagnosis and  
the quality of care that patients receive**

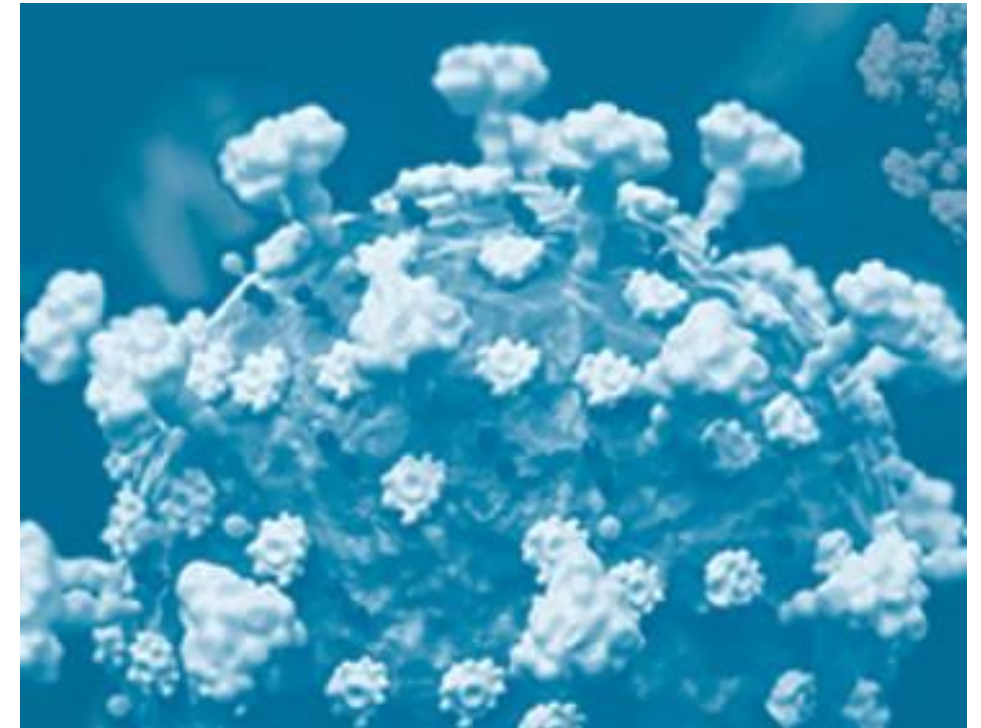
# Overview of CAP COVID-19 Advocacy Actions

<b>Advocate</b>	Advocate for Financial Assistance for Pathologists During the Pandemic
<b>Secure</b>	Secure Regulatory Flexibility for Pathologists and Laboratories
<b>Influence</b>	Influence Congress as it Acted on Providing Test Coverage, Payment, and Other Assistance to Physicians and Hospitals
<b>Collaborate</b>	Collaborate With State Pathology Societies

# Responding to Member and Laboratory Needs

The CAP offers proficiency testing to validate COVID-19 testing:

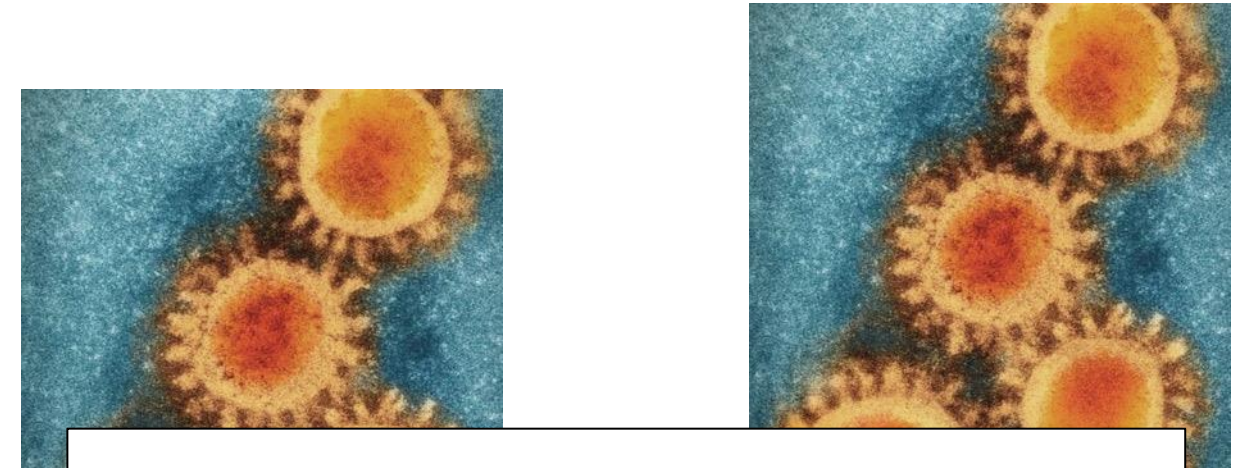
- Three SARS-CoV-2 PT programs (molecular, serology, and antigen)
- Two Quality Cross Check programs (molecular and serology)





# Responding to Member and Laboratory Needs

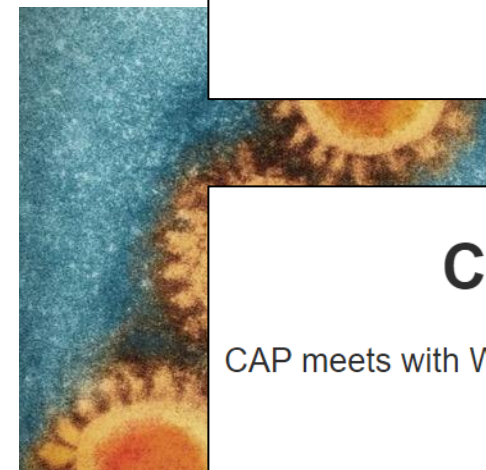
- Two COVID-19 sections accessible from cap.org home page:
  - COVID-19 Updates
    - For newly posted COVID-related information
  - COVID-19 Information, including:
    - Extensive Q&A
    - Advocacy News
    - Practice Resources
    - Topic Center, eg, Microbiology



## COVID-19 Updates

Access recent updates on COVID-19

[See the Updates](#)



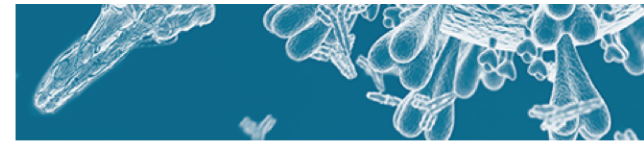
## COVID-19 Information

CAP meets with White House officials to address testing supply shortages

[Read More](#)

# Responding to Member and Laboratory Needs

- Two COVID-19 sections on cap.org:
  - COVID-19 Information
  - COVID-19 Updates
- Extensive Q&A Sections for COVID-19-related questions
- Visit the Topic Center for related information in areas such as Policy and Advocacy, Digital Pathology, Microbiology



Evaluate the accuracy of antibody testing—report results and quantitative methods for total, IgG, IgM, and IgA a

See D

For CAP-Accredited Laboratories

For PT Customers

Advocacy News and Legislative Alerts

Practice Resources for Pathologists

Topic Center

CAP Meetings, Events, and Education

CAP in the News and on Social Media

Information from US Government Agencies and WHO

## For CAP-Accredited Laboratories

- The College of American Pathologists is advocating for pathology in the wake of the outbreak of the novel (new) coronavirus “SARS-CoV-2” disease it causes, “coronavirus disease 2019” (abbreviated “COVID-19”).
- [Mandatory Test Result Reporting for SARS-CoV-2 \(COVID-19\) for Medicare and Medicaid Services \(CMS\) memorandum, QSC](#) announces updates to the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) requirements on laboratories for reporting SARS-CoV-2 test results in a health emergency.
- The CAP is recommending a modified inspection process to address the current climate in health care and to provide for increased safety measures. [about our recommended pre-inspection document review](#) and [2020 Modified Inspections Toolkit](#).
- [PrimeStore® MTM Releases Cyanide Gas When Exposed](#) and CDC share alert regarding PrimeStore® Molecular Transport Media as an approved transport media for COVID-19 diagnostic swab samples. The media contains guanidine thiocyanate, which produces a chemical reaction that releases cyanide gas when exposed to bleach (sodium hypochlorite).
- [CAP Statement on the Current Role of Serologic Testing for SARS-CoV-2](#) CAP President Patrick Godbey, MD, FCAP issued a statement on the Current Role of Serologic Testing for SARS-CoV-2, as there are still significant concerns with respect to SARS-CoV-2 antibody testing, ranging from uncertainty about the accuracy of many commercially available assays to the clinical

# CAP Practice Management Tools and Resources

COLLEGE of AMERICAN PATHOLOGISTS

All Sites | Search

Member Resources ▾ Advocacy ▾ Laboratory Improvement ▾ Learning ▾ Protocols and Guidelines ▾ Publications ▾

Home > Member Resources > Practice Management

## Practice Management

Practice management provides connections, resources, and one-of-a-kind tools to improve your practice.

### Practice Management Resources

Reach your practice goals with these pathology-focused resources for a well-run practice.

- [Contracts-Negotiations and Fee Schedules](#)
- [Laboratory Medical Director Resource](#) 🔒
- [Business Development and Marketing](#) 🔒
- [Coding and Payment](#)
- [Compliance and Risk Management](#) 🔒
- [Finance/Governance/Business Operations](#) 🔒
- [Human Resources](#) 🔒

### Value-Based Business Toolkits

This set of toolkits will assist your practice with increasing its success in the current health care landscape. The only resource of its kind, created specifically for pathology practices, the toolkits cover billing assessment, cost assessment, market assessment, value impact analysis, and more.

[Access the Toolkits](#)

### Resources for Pathology Practice Staff

Pathology practice staff may access our tools and resources available exclusively for our members. Sponsorship by a current CAP member within the practice is required.

[View Resources](#)

[Apply for Sponsored Access](#)

### Fee Impact Assessment Calculator

Use our impact calculator to evaluate the impact the proposed 2021 Medicare schedule changes may have on your practice.

[Download the Calculator](#) 🔒 →

### Contact Information

Have questions?  
Email [practicemanagement@cap.org](mailto:practicemanagement@cap.org).



# 2021 Pathologists Leadership Summit

- **Save the Date: May 1–4**
- **Members-only event will focus on helping CAP members take action to:**
  - Advance and advocate for the specialty
  - Increase pathologists' presence and influence on Capitol Hill
  - Advance your leadership skillset to the next level
- **More details and registration information to come**

2021 Pathologists  
Leadership Summit

May 1–4



# The CAP Is Your Professional Organization

**For Advocacy**

**For Quality**

**For Your Career**

Please take a moment to give us your feedback by completing a CAP evaluation form.





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