



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS  
SERVICES, INCORPORATED  
INTERNAL MEDICINE | *Doctors for Adults*

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** February 19, 2007

**TO:** Board of Governors (US Chapters)

**FROM:** Bob Doherty, Senior Vice President  
Governmental Affairs and Public Policy  
American College of Physicians

Patrick Hope, Esq., Legislative Counsel & Senior Manager  
Governmental Affairs and Public Policy  
American College of Physicians Services, Inc.

**SUBJECT:** ACP Services Leadership Day on Capitol Hill, May 15-16

**CC:** Board of Regents, Members of Chapter Health and Public Policy Committees (HPPC), Chapter Staff, HPPC and Medical Service Committee (MSC), Council of Associates, Council of Medical Students, Council of Young Physicians, Federal Legislative Coordinators

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In a rare lame-duck session, Congress acted to avert a 5 percent cut in the 2007 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. The bill, H.R. 6408, the “Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006,” also mandated a test of ACP’s proposal for a medical home demonstration to provide primary and principal care physicians with a “care coordination fee” for managing the care of patients with multiple chronic conditions and “shared savings” for reducing hospital admissions that may result from such coordination. Your involvement in the 2006 Leadership Day and subsequent advocacy contributed to this successful outcome!

While the College greatly appreciates steps Congress took to block proposed physician payment cuts, the fix was only temporary and the new Congress will have to, once again, take immediate action to avert another anticipated 5-10 percent cut. In addition to this effort, ACP’s 2007 advocacy agenda calls on Congress to take necessary steps to enact a longer-term payment fix that provides positive and stable updates, creates sustained incentives for quality improvement, creates positive incentives for physicians to acquire electronic health records and other health information technologies in support of care coordination and quality improvement, and supports a restructuring of payment that supports patient-centered care coordination. We will urge Congress to modify the transitional Medicare “pay for reporting” program that will begin this summer, before extending it into future years, so that it provides positive, sustained and sufficient incentives for quality improvement and care coordination rather than “reporting for the sake of reporting.” We also will challenge Congress to enact comprehensive reforms to expand access to care to the 47 million uninsured. Participants in the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Leadership Day will play a significant role in this effort.

We ask your help in reaching the College's goal of having each chapter represented at Leadership Day. To save time, we encourage you to register for Leadership Day online at ([http://www.acpservices.org/leadership/day\\_reg.htm](http://www.acpservices.org/leadership/day_reg.htm)). Governors can fill out the registration form for all of the chapter's participants or forward the form to the individuals being asked to participate. If you prefer to fax the registration form, send it to the attention of Shuan Tomlinson at FAX # 202-835-0442.

For the second year, we are offering a *special briefing* for associates and medical students whose participation in Leadership Day is growing and adding a valuable perspective to ACP's advocacy on Capitol Hill. This two-hour briefing and "happy hour" reception for associates and medical students will be held on Monday, May 14 starting at 4:00 PM at the Wyndham Washington, D.C. Hotel (soon to be the Westin Hotel).

For the fourth year, we continue to offer an *optional* half-day training on the morning of Tuesday, May 15 beginning promptly at 8:45AM to help our first-timers get a jump start on their participation in Leadership Day. Everyone is welcome to start early with consecutive workshops in media relations and grassroots advocacy on day-one. The training will be interactive, lively and well worth the extra time commitment, especially for those who are new to Leadership Day or who want to pick up some new ideas to use while you are here and to take home with you. For those attending the pre-course for first-timers, registration will be open on Monday evening between 5:00 – 7:00 PM and again Tuesday morning at 8:00 AM. A light lunch will be available for all participants during registration between 12:15 and 12:45 PM on Tuesday.

The regular program will begin Tuesday, May 15 at 12:45 PM with in-depth briefings on the issues and presentations by Hill and administration representatives. You will hear from Washington insiders who will assess the current political environment and its impact on ACP issues. The program also includes speeches by key members of Congress and a keynote dinner address. We will also be presenting our "Key Contact of the Year Award" during the dinner on May 15. The Joseph F. Boyle Award for Distinguished Public Service will be awarded this year to Carolyn Clancy, MD, MACP, Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). Continuing education credits will be offered again this year.

We will start our Capitol Hill day, Wednesday, May 16, with breakfast and speeches from elected officials in the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill. This room will serve as our hospitality/debriefing location until we move one flight up to the Gold Room after lunch. As in the past, the program is planned to maximize the time available to spend with your members of Congress. Box lunches will be provided in the hospitality room on Capitol Hill so that lunchtime is flexible and more time can be spent on Hill visits.

Leadership Day is being sponsored by ACP Services, Incorporated (ACP Services, Inc), a separate membership organization that was formed to advocate for the interests of internist-members and their patients. ACP Services is not subject to tax code restrictions on lobbying and political activities that apply to organizations, like the ACP itself, that are designated as charitable organizations under the U.S. tax code. All ACP members are members (automatically) of ACP Services so they can participate fully in activities, like Leadership Day, sponsored by ACP Services.

*Now is the time to put your delegations together, make hotel and airline reservations, and set up appointments to meet with members of Congress. Please note that Leadership Day will be held this year at the Wyndham Washington, DC Hotel (soon to be the Westin Hotel)*

*<http://www.wyndham.com/hotels/DCAHT/main.wnt> in downtown Washington. (THIS IS THE SAME HOTEL AS LAST YEAR: LOCATED AT 1400 M STREET (M STREET, NW BETWEEN 14<sup>TH</sup> AND 15<sup>TH</sup> STREETS). To take advantage of free long distance and high-speed internet, enroll in the “Wyndham by Request” program (<https://www.wyndham.com/wbr/signin.wnt?event=protected>)*

### **Selecting Your Chapter’s Delegation –**

We encourage all ACP Chapters to participate and to increase the number of participants over last year. Please review the attached target list of Members of Congress from your state who serve on key health committees or in leadership positions. Whenever possible, include a constituent of these individuals in your ACP delegation.

Those you might consider for your delegation include: Governors, Governors-Elect, Regents, Health and Public Policy Chairs, Key Contacts, Federal Legislative Coordinators, and Associate and Student Members. (For a list of Key Contacts from your state that have been particularly engaged in the legislative process, please contact Patrick Hope, Legislative Counsel, at 1-800-338-2746, Ext. 4541 or by E-mail at [phope@acponline.org](mailto:phope@acponline.org)). **There is no funding available from ACP to subsidize the costs of sending your representatives.**

### **Hotel/Flight Reservations –**

**Hotel reservations should be made immediately (use enclosed form). The ACP block of rooms will be released on Friday, April 23rd. Since demand may exceed supply, make your reservations early to avoid having to stay at an off-site hotel.** The Wyndham Washington, DC Hotel is located at 1400 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005, 202-429-1700 or 800-996-3426. You may find substantial savings with flights into the Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI). While the trip from BWI to downtown Washington is longer than the trip from Ronald Reagan National Airport, limousine service is available. BWI is only a few miles farther from downtown than Dulles Airport. During weekday travel, MARC trains make frequent trips from the BWI airport to Washington’s Union Station (one-way ticket is \$6). A free shuttle is available for the 5-minute ride from the BWI Airport, baggage claim level to the BWI rail station. Go to <http://www.mtmaryland.com/services/marc/schedulesSystemMaps/penn.cfm> for more information and the MARC Penn Line train schedule.

### **Arranging Your Chapter’s Hill Visits for May 16 –**

Phone lists for the Senate and U.S. House of Representatives are attached (pocketsize directories are being printed and will be mailed to you as soon as they are available) for you to call your representatives schedulers for appointments. When your meeting appointments are made please fill out and fax back the enclosed form titled “Appointments Arranged Form.” Having this information in advance will give the governmental affairs staff the information they need to tailor their advice to you for your individual meetings.

When you are making your appointments, you are encouraged to ask the legislators’ staff if the senator or representative has a particular health bill he or she is sponsoring or if there is a health issue they would like to discuss. You may want to visit the legislator’s web site as an easy way to see what issues are of concern to them. In the Senate, the address is [www.senate.gov/](http://www.senate.gov/). In the House, it is [www.house.gov/](http://www.house.gov/).

The exact content of issues will be shaped by the flow of congressional activity between now and mid-May when our visits will occur. In addition to Medicare physician payment reform, we will be discussing several other crucial issues related to improving healthcare quality and advancing patient-centered care.

### **Background Materials to Follow –**

In early May, you will receive briefing materials that will include background information on the issues and fact sheets to leave behind after your meetings, and general tips for planning your meetings. The Washington staff is available for any assistance you may need in preparing for and conducting your meetings. Pocketsize Congressional directories for the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress will be mailed to everyone who registers in addition to the briefing book.

If you have questions about registration or meeting logistics, please contact *Shuan Tomlinson*, State Health Policy Coordinator, at 1-800-338-2746, Ext. 4547 or by email [stomlinson@acponline.org](mailto:stomlinson@acponline.org). For other information about Leadership Day, please contact *Patrick Hope* at 1-800-338-2746, Ext. 4541 or by e-mail [phope@acponline.org](mailto:phope@acponline.org).

Chapter participation in Leadership Day and the key contact program is the bedrock of ACP's advocacy program. Thank you for your chapter's support!

### **Attachments:**

1. Preliminary Program
2. Hotel Reservation Form (also an attachment to on-line registration form)
3. House and Senate target lists
4. How to Set Up Your Congressional Visits
5. Appointments Arranged Form
6. Sample Appointment Request Letter
7. List of Leadership
8. House and Senate Committee Contact Information
9. Map of Capitol Hill
10. Pronunciation Guide
11. Senate Phone List
12. House Phone List
13. Meeting reminders checklist

### **CME ACCREDITATION**

The American College of Physicians is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The American College of Physicians designates this educational activity for a maximum of **8 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)<sup>™</sup>**. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.