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Education. Evolved

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The ever-evolving landscape of medicine demands constant adaptation, learning and growth from us as physicians. Particularly in PM&R we've witnessed a remarkable evolution. In the last two decades alone, our profession has grown to embrace new sub-specializations and incorporate innovative techniques such as ultrasound into routine clinical practice. However, as the clinical aspect of our profession evolves, so too does the business side of medicine.

The future of our practice patterns will undoubtedly be influenced by changes in healthcare policies and economic factors. It's been noted that Medicare has not sufficiently increased physician reimbursement rates to keep up with inflation. Estimates suggest that doctors' earning power has decreased by

26% in 2023 compared to 2001 when adjusted for inflation. This financial pressure has led many physicians to increase their patient load, often at the expense of patient connectivity which furthers the potential for physician burnout.

These are significant challenges that cannot be ignored. As your Academy, we are committed to addressing these issues head-on. We are actively advocating for fair reimbursement, promoting work-life balance, and ensuring the sustainability of our profession.

Our goal is to create an environment where PM&R physicians can continue to provide high-quality care while maintaining personal well-being and professional satisfaction. It's a complex landscape, but together, we can navigate it successfully.

While the future is hard to predict, one thing is certain: medicine will continue to advance and change. Our training equips us with a unique and broad skill set to treat a wide array of essential conditions. However, as the field continues to evolve, so too must our knowledge and skills in order to keep abreast of changes and be prepared for new opportunities. This underscores the importance of having a reliable, high-quality source of information that caters to our specific needs, and that's where the Academy shines.

Education is one of AAPM&R's key value propositions. It is a fundamental offering that affects PM&R practitioners across all clinical focuses, practice areas, career stages and levels of expertise. As members, we have access to a multitude of resources that help us navigate the shifting landscape of healthcare and prepare us for the future. This commitment to lifelong learning and professional development is a key benefit of Academy membership and a cornerstone of our collective success in PM&R.

Membership provides you access to complimentary and discounted resources that will enhance your career and position you for success in today's shifting healthcare environment. From the most current clinical content to hands-on training, coding guidelines and leadership development, the Academy provides valuable resources addressing all aspects of medical professionalism.

A few key items in the Academy's educational portfolio for 2024 include:

- The Annual Assembly in San Diego on November 6-10 will have a theme of *The Power of PM&R*. This is physiatry's premier educational and networking event of the year, and we have some exciting things planned. This includes more advanced clinical content than ever before, with **Advanced Clinical Focus Days on Thursday, Friday and Saturday**, which will highlight advanced content in these clinical areas: pain and spine, pediatrics, cancer rehabilitation, inpatient rehabilitation, musculoskeletal and neurorehabilitation. If you only can make it to one event this should be it!
- The Academy created STEP Certificate Programs which are one-of-a-kind programs, designed by physiatrists for physiatrists on key topics such as Concussion and Mild TBI, Spasticity and Ultrasound. These multi-tiered programs teach and assess important PM&R skills using a progressive, competency-based curriculum with both online and live learning formats.
- Launching later this year, our new Medical Directorship Virtual Certificate Program will provide participants with essential knowledge and skills via three live discussions (hosted virtually) with experts in the field of PM&R, complemented by a series of engaging online lectures. The program will cover multiple key topics that are crucial for effective medical directors, including: leading change, understanding roles and governing structures, organizational behavior, utilization management and strategies for success.

- And don't forget about the complimentary resources provided with your membership, including podcasts, clinical presentations, Journal CME, self-assessments and more. We also offer an educational subscription with 24/7 access to more than 150 online educational resources, available for purchase through the end of your membership cycle.

As we navigate this ever-changing landscape of medicine, the Academy is devoted to being the go-to resource for the most relevant continuing education for its members. We thank you for your continued support of AAPM&R and dedication to advancing the field of PM&R. I look forward to seeing you in San Diego!



Academy in Action

AAPM&R is Fighting Against PM&R Physician Fee Cuts and For Improved PM&R Physician Payment

- The Academy joined the Regulatory Relief Coalition (RRC) on a support letter in favor of the Senate version of the *No Fees for EFTs Act* (S. 3805). If passed, this legislation would prohibit health plans from imposing fees on healthcare providers for electronic funds transfers (EFTs). These fees ultimately reduce reimbursement for physicians and practices and as a result can reduce patient access to care.



Academy in Action

AAPM&R is Fighting to Reduce Psychiatrist Burden by Removing Prior Authorization Barriers

- The Academy joined the Regulatory Relief Coalition (RRC) on a coalition letter urging the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to halt implementation of a proposed demonstration project that would require Ambulatory Surgical Centers to obtain prior authorization before providing certain surgical procedures to Medicare beneficiaries.