



PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

ACNP Forms Nuclear Medicine Political Action Committee.

The American College of Nuclear Physicians (ACNP) has established a new political action committee (PAC) in the wake of the Society of Nuclear Medicine's (SNM) dismantling of its PAC. The new ACNP-sponsored PAC is designated the Nuclear Medicine Political Action Commission (NMPAC). Trustees for the NMPAC are Terence Beven, MD, Chair; Robert Lull, MD; Lawrence Holder, MD; and Robert F. Carretta, MD.

As part of the guidelines for the PAC, funds will be donated to members of Congress who have an interest in the safe application of nuclear medicine. Although federal law prohibits the solicitation of non-ACNP members, membership is open to anyone with an interest in nuclear medicine, provided they are U.S. citizens. Contributions cannot be made on corporate checks. To learn more about the issues of the NMPAC or to become a member, contact Amanda Sullivan at 703-708-9773.

Representative Rick Lazio Promises to Introduce Licensure Bill

After years of working toward national licensure, the SNM-Technologist Section and the rest of the Alliance for Quality Medical Imaging are pleased to announce that a national licensure bill should be introduced soon. Representative Rick Lazio (R-NY) has agreed to introduce the Alliance-drafted licensure bill, which he has renamed the Consumer Assurance of Radiologic Excellence (CARE), in the House during this session of Congress. We expect the bill to be introduced before the July 4th recess.

Fourteen members of the House of Representatives have promised the Alliance to sign on as cosponsors for the CARE bill. They are: John Duncan (R-TN), Jim Maloney (D-CT), Bobby Rush (D-IL), William Lipinski (D-IL), Nick Rahall (D-WV), James Oberstar (D-MN), Dale Kildee (D-MI), Connie Morella (R-MD), Jim Leach (R-IA), Jerold Nadler (D-NY), John

Olver (D-MA), Howard McKeon (R-CA), John Larson (D-CT), and Nancy Johnson (R-CT).

SNM-TS members should contact their Representatives and urge them to support the CARE Act by signing on as cosponsors and voting favorably on the bill. To learn more about the Alliance and the national licensure movement, visit the SNM Web site at www.snm.org or contact William Uffelman, Director of Public Affairs, at 703-708-9773.

NM APC Task Force Submits Comment Letter on HOPPS

On April 7, 2000, the Healthcare Finance Administration (HCFA) released the Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (HOPPS) final rule. In June HCFA delayed implementation of the HOPPS/Ambulatory Payment Classification (APC) rule to August 1, 2000. Although the NM Task Force has commented on specific portions of this rule, the group recently drafted a letter that comments on the rule as a whole.

The letter begins by complimenting HCFA and several members of the staff for their efforts in working with the Task Force to craft APCs that make clinical and economic sense. The letter goes on to point out, however, that several provisions in the rule are still of substantial concern to the Task Force. For example, the final rule restructured the nuclear medicine APCs and placed some procedures in APCs that are not clinically similar. We suggest that these be reassigned to ensure that the APC groups are both clinically coherent and homogeneous with respect to resources. In addition, a complete list of radiopharmaceuticals eligible for pass-through still is not available on the latest update to the HCFA Web site, and clarification of payment levels is needed for several radiopharmaceuticals in the HCFA ruling.

To view this letter in its entirety, visit the SNM Web site at www.snm.org or contact Amanda Sullivan at 703-708-9773.