

JAMA recently published a "Viewpoint" article authored by Robert Berenson and Ezekiel Emanuel, which criticized the AMA/Specialty Society RVS Update Committee (RUC) process and accused its medical specialty society volunteers of unprofessional and unethical behavior.

We, the physicians and other healthcare professionals, volunteer countless hours in an effort to improve America's healthcare system. At a time when resources are extremely limited and our hours providing care to America's patients are never ending, we sacrifice our own personal time to the RUC process. We provide expertise to the RUC regarding time, intensity, and relativity for services that we are familiar with in our respective fields. We, the physician and other healthcare professionals in no way benefit financially from these recommendations that the RUC forwards to CMS. To imply that we do, is inflammatory and irresponsible.

We will continue to donate our time and clinical expertise to CMS, through the RUC process in an effort to develop fair and appropriate relativity in the Medicare Physician Payment Schedule.

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
AMDA - The Society for Post Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Chiropractic Association
American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
American College of Cardiology
American College of Gastroenterology
American College of Mohs Surgery
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)
American College of Radiation Oncology
American College of Rheumatology
American Gastroenterological Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society
American Physical Therapy Association
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychological Association (APA)
American Rhinologic Society (ARS)
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery
American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO)
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
American Society for Surgery of the Hand Professional Organization

American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA)
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
American Society of Echocardiography
American Society of Neuroradiology
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Society of Transplant Surgeons
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
American Urological Association
American Vein and Lymphatic Society
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Heart Rhythm Society
North American Neuromodulation Society
Obesity Medicine Association
Renal Physicians Association
Society for Vascular Surgery
Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES)
Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography
Society of Interventional Radiology
The American Society of Dermatopathology
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons