

Volume 1 Issue 3  
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# Strategic Advisory Group: Project Updates

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*Advocacy  
Update*

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## Inaugural Meeting with CMS

On September 19<sup>th</sup>, we had our first meeting with CMS. The CMS representatives included:

Acting Director of the Hospital and Ambulatory Payment Group (HAPG)

Acting Deputy Director of the HAPG

Acting Director of the Division of Outpatient Care

And two Medical Officers from HAPG

These were the individuals who were invited, so we were pleasantly surprised that they did not send junior substitutes in their stead.

We made our pitch to partner with them on finding ways to grow urgent care across the country so that we can fulfill our role of keeping their beneficiaries out of emergency departments, thereby keeping down costs overall and reducing overcrowding and expanding access. This “partnering” would include the right mix of “requirements and incentives”.

They were engaged, asked questions, and pitched out a few options about how to accomplish this as well as some other divisions we should talk to (CMMI, for example). The options were things we’d already kicked around such as facility fees, getting a G-code, getting a separate practice cost calculation, etc. so it was good to see our thoughts were in line with theirs.

They are deep in the final days of rulemaking on the Physician Fee Schedule, so there won’t be another meeting until after that’s done in November, but we will start prepping for that right away, and do some outreach to CMMI.

Our goal for this meeting was to open a dialogue and for them to want it to continue (vs. shutting us down) so we are putting this one in the victory column.

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*Leadership &  
Advocacy  
Conference*

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## So What Does this Mean for Lobby Day?

In November, during the Leadership and Advocacy Conference, we will all be talking with lawmakers. Since we hope that our payment reform work can be handled via regulations vs. legislation (faster and easier), we are thinking about what CMS's warm reception means for our legislative strategy.

We'll have it figured out by November!

If you haven't registered for this yet, PLEASE DO!

All the information is here: [urgentcareassociation.org/lac](http://urgentcareassociation.org/lac)

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### Next Meeting

Washington, DC  
November 14-16

Leadership and Advocacy Conference

Questions? Email Lou Ellen at [lhowitz@urgentcareassociation.org](mailto:lhowitz@urgentcareassociation.org)