



December 16, 2016

Donald J. Trump
President-Elect
1717 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20006

Dear President-elect Trump:

The Cognitive Care Alliance (Alliance) would like to welcome you to Washington and offer our expertise in your work to improve patient care and payment value for healthcare services. We share your commitment to the preservation of Medicare and believe that deficiencies in the current payment structure deprive beneficiaries of needed services.

The Alliance represents over 100,000 physicians from nine cognitive specialty societies including primary care, endocrinology, infectious diseases, gastroenterology, hematology, hepatology, neurology, and rheumatology. The Alliance was formed to promote equitable reimbursement for cognitive work and ensure a robust, sustainable, and balanced workforce. Those physicians who focus on the assessment and planning needed for effective medical decision making in primary care and complicated, high risk specialty care play an essential role in a high performing health care system. These purely “cognitive” services must be supported if Medicare is to achieve the best patient outcomes, provide support to patients and their families in health and illness, and reduce health care expenditures.

The resource-based relative value scale (RBRVS) used by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to assign payments for all physician services does not accurately capture the complex work of non-procedural, purely “cognitive” physician services. This has been recognized by CMS in the annual Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) rulemaking process. Our top priority is to develop a knowledge base that can be used to develop new service codes that would be valued to recognize the complexities and demands of current cognitive medical practice. Ultimately, this research will ensure patient access to the assessment and planning needed for optimal care, refocus physicians on medical decision making, and facilitate the development of valid measures of quality.

We look forward to working with your administration and will provide additional details on this important issue in a follow up letter. We are wholeheartedly committed to doing all that we can to preserve a balanced and effective physician workforce for the future. We want all doctors, regardless of specialty, to look forward to meeting and helping their patients. If you require any

further information or require additional information, please contact Erika Miller, Executive Director of the Cognitive Care Alliance, at emiller@dc-crd.com or (202) 484-1100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Goodson MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John Goodson, MD
Chair, Cognitive Care Alliance

cc: Andrew Bremberg
Representative Tom Price, MD
Seema Verma

Cognitive Care Alliance Member Organizations:

American Academy of Neurology
American Association of the Study of Liver Diseases
American College of Rheumatology
American Gastroenterological Association
American Society of Hematology
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
Endocrine Society
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Society of General Internal Medicine