



NYS Society of Plastic Surgeons, Inc.

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October 13, 2016

Patrick Hermes
Senior Manager of Advocacy and Government Affairs
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
444 East Algonquin Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60005-4664

Dear Mr. Hermes:

The New York State Society of Plastic Surgeons (NYSSPS) strongly supports the American Society of Plastic Surgeons' (ASPS) position statement on Out-of-Network Billing that was released in June 2016.

NYSSPS aggressively advocated to establish patient-centric legislation that provided much needed transparency to patients and employers in New York regarding the scope of their health insurance coverage. All too often health insurers have drastically reduced their levels of coverage in policies, which cover health care provided by out-of-network physicians. As a result, the insurance benefits for which the consumer paid an extra premium are often far less than the actual market charges. The increased financial responsibility for patients seeking out-of-network care is both substantial and unexpected.

NYSSPS fully agrees that patients need to be informed of their potential to receive care from out-of-network providers. Payers, facilities and providers are all responsible for communicating network-related information. It is important that legislation protect the patient's right to see a physician outside of a plan's network and policymakers must be encouraged to include provisions that assure access to care by fostering physician networks sufficient to meet patient needs.

NYSSPS also supports the ASPS position to seek approaches that use an independent third party claims data repository to set the fee schedule and that FAIR Health healthcare claims data makes a good benchmark for future policy development.

In our efforts, NYSSPS advocated for the same approach which enables patients to easily understand and anticipate the out of pocket costs they might face for a particular treatment if they have out-of-network coverage and choose an out-of-network physician. Moreover, it better assures that employers and patients get what they pay for through provisions that require health insurance companies to offer policies for out-of-network coverage to ensure there is significant coverage of such costs.

NYSSPS continues to monitor the impacts of the enacted Out of Network legislation and regulation on all stakeholders in New York. We are currently assessing how the State's development of an All Payer Database may affect network adequacy and reimbursement. New York State enacted legislation in 2011 that allowed for the creation of the All Payer Database (APD) and its full implementation is expected in 2017.

We look forward to sharing our experience and supporting ASPS as it advocates for fully informed patients and fair reimbursement for physician services.

Respectfully,

Scot B. Glasberg, MD
NYSSPS President

Cc: Michael J. Costelloe, JD - Executive Vice President, ASPS