

RESOLUTION

Subject: Investing in Primary Care
 Submitted by: Greater Louisville Medical Society
 Referred to: Reference Committee

WHEREAS, Dr. Barbara Starfield's published research has long held that the areas with higher ratios of primary care physicians to population have lower total healthcare costs, due in part to better preventive care and lower hospitalization rates (Starfield, 2005)¹; and

WHEREAS, primary care provided by non-physician providers has shown to increase healthcare costs rather than reducing it (MSMA Journal)²; and

WHEREAS, 109 of Kentucky's 120 counties have a primary care shortage (RHI Hub)³; and

WHEREAS, 1 in 3 Kentuckians are enrolled in Medicaid (DMS, 2024)⁴; and

WHEREAS, the Kaiser Family Foundation found that for all Medicaid services, Kentucky pays 76% of the Medicare rate, and specifically for primary care services, Kentucky pays 65% of the Medicare rate (KFF)⁵; and

WHEREAS, in cross comparing the 2024 fee schedule with the 2013 fee schedule, looking specifically at some of the more highly utilized primary care codes (99213 & 99214) there hasn't been a rate change for these codes for at least the last 11 years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that KMA advocate to the General Assembly for an increase in the reimbursement rates for the most frequently utilized primary care codes on the Medicaid Physician Fee Schedule.

References

1. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2690145/>
2. <https://ejournal.msmaonline.com/publication/?m=63060&i=735364&p=20&ver=html5>
3. <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/charts/5?state=KY>
4. <https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/stats/KYDWMCC202406.pdf>
5. <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/medicaid-to-medicare-fee-index/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>