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ADVOCACY UPDATE

August 17, 2021



RECORDED WEBINAR

Pending Cuts to Surgical Care Are Back: How Patients Will Be Harmed by the Cuts

 WATCH NOW

New Webinar on Pending Medicare Cuts and Patient Impact

Last week the Surgical Care Coalition hosted a webinar on **pending Medicare cuts to surgical care and how they will impact patients.**

The webinar featured **Dr. David B. Hoyt**, Executive Director of the American College of Surgeons, **Dr. Margaret C. Tracci**, Vice Chair of the Policy and Advocacy Council of the Society for Vascular Surgery, and **Dr. David B. Glasser**, Secretary for Federal Affairs of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, about these harmful cuts to surgical care and the advocacy efforts of the [Surgical Care Coalition](#). The surgeons spoke about the real world impact of the cuts and how the cuts impact all aspects of

care delivery from how a surgeon runs their practice to the type of cases a surgeon may take.

Couldn't attend?

If you were not able to attend the webinar last week, a recording of the webinar is available [here](#). Please take time to educate yourself on the cuts to surgical care and the advocacy efforts of the coalition.

[WATCH THE WEBINAR](#)

More Than One Million Health Care Providers Tell Congress to Stop Medicare Cuts

The Surgical Care Coalition joined more than 100 health care organizations representing more than one million physicians and non-physician health care providers to urge Congress to stop the Medicare payment cuts for at least two years and address long-term challenges associated with Medicare payment policy. We emphasized that stopping these cuts would reaffirm investment in surgical care for all patients when they need it most and prevent the unnecessary harm they would cause.

John K. Ratliff, MD, American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of Neurological Surgeons Washington Committee Chair said, "The House of Medicine stands united in our fight to stop these harmful cuts that hurt our vulnerable seniors who will suffer from a broken Medicare payment system. Ongoing structural problems with the Medicare fee system should not continue at the expense of patients. Congress must act now to prevent these cuts, then work to reform a health care system that our patients deserve."

Read the full letter [here](#).

Read the full coalition statement [here](#).

In The News: Surgeons and Physicians Support COVID-19 Vaccination

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) along with over 50 organizations released a joint statement in support of COVID-19 vaccine mandates for all workers in health and long-term care. The statement highlights that highly contagious variants, including the Delta variant, and significant numbers of unvaccinated people have caused COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths to surge throughout the United States. ACS and other organizations acknowledge vaccination as the primary way to put the pandemic behind us and avoid the return of stringent public health measures.

“The COVID-19 vaccines are one of the best tools we have to end the pandemic. For the health and safety of patients, surgeons, and health care workers everywhere, we call for surgeons and health care workers to receive their vaccines and do their part in helping their patients get vaccinated,” said **ACS Executive Director, David B. Hoyt, MD, FACS.**

Read more about this story in the [Washington Post](#), [NBC News](#), and [Modern Healthcare](#).

An advertisement featuring a photograph of an older Black man with a grey beard, wearing a grey sweater over a white collared shirt, looking thoughtfully to the right. The background is a light blue gradient. Overlaid on the right side is a dark blue curved shape containing the text "Inspiring Patient Story?" in large, bold, white font. Below this text is a red rounded rectangle with the white text "Share Here". In the bottom right corner of the dark blue shape is the Surgical Care Coalition logo, which consists of a white stylized 'S' followed by the text "Surgical Care Coalition" in white.

Inspiring Patient Story?

[Share Here](#)

 Surgical Care Coalition

Share Your Story

We continue to receive impactful stories from members of the Surgical Care Coalition, and we are excited to read more! As you know, the patients we care for are the most important voices in protecting surgical care. By sharing stories about the patients you have helped, we can illustrate what's at stake for vulnerable patients across the country if cuts to surgical care take effect.

We know you all have made incredible contributions to your communities and touched the lives of so many. We encourage you to share those stories with us to help stop the cuts and protect patient care. Use the form below to submit your story or contact a member of your surgical professional association's Washington office.

Your testimony, support, and advocacy will make our voices heard and protect patients.

[**SHARE YOUR STORY**](#)



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