



House Members Urge Action to Avert Potential E/M Cuts



On Monday, Representative Martha Roby and 228 other bipartisan House members cosigned a letter to Speaker Nancy Pelosi and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy calling on House leadership to pass legislation this year to prevent devastating cuts to many specialties posed by the application of budget neutrality to new Evaluation & Management Code (E/M) changes and other policies proposed by CMS in the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Rule scheduled to take effect on Jan. 1, 2021.

While the new E/M payment policies include improvements for maternity care and much-needed payment increases for physicians delivering primary and complex office-based care, unfortunately, a statutory budget neutrality rule requires that any increases in Medicare payments for these office visits known as E/M services must be offset by corresponding decreases across all services. As a

result, many specialists are now facing cuts of as high as 11% on Jan. 1, 2021, if Congress does not act.

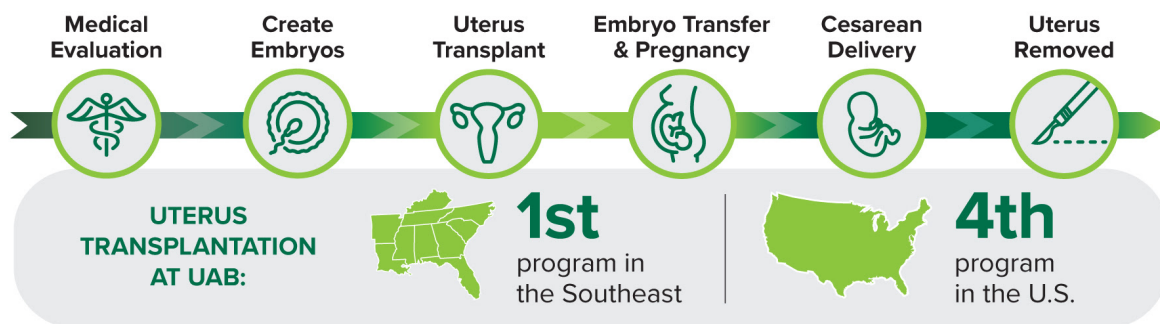
The Medical Association has been working with the American Medical Association (AMA) and other groups to advocate for a way to prevent these significant cuts.

[See the letter here](#)

UAB Establishes Uterus Transplant Program

HOW DOES UTERUS TRANSPLANT WORK?

UAB's new Uterus Transplant program will be an effective treatment for absolute uterine factor infertility.



COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPLANT INSTITUTE
UAB MEDICINE
The University of Alabama at Birmingham

The University of Alabama at Birmingham and UAB Medicine have established the first uterus transplant program in the Southeast and the fourth such program in the United States.

Led by Paige Porrett, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of surgery in the UAB Division of Transplantation and Comprehensive Transplant Institute, the uterus transplantation program will provide women with uterine factor infertility an innovative option for child-bearing using deceased donor organs.

[Read the story from UAB](#)

FDA approves Remdesivir as Treatment

for Patients with COVID-19 who Require Hospitalization



U.S. regulators on Thursday approved the first drug to treat COVID-19: remdesivir, an antiviral medicine given to hospitalized patients through an IV.

The drug, which California-based Gilead Sciences Inc. is calling Veklury, cut the time to recovery by five days — from 15 days to 10 on average — in a large study led by the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

It had been authorized for use on an emergency basis since spring, and now becomes the first drug to win full Food and Drug Administration approval for treating COVID-19.

[Read the story from AP News](#)

Major Changes to 2021 E/M Coding

**MAJOR CHANGES
COMING TO
2021 E/M CODING!**

[Click here for more information.](#)



Considerable changes are being made to Medicare outpatient evaluation and management (E/M) codes. The transition will take effect on January 1, 2021 and will likely affect physicians across all

specialties.

The changes are currently restricted to new and established outpatient visits (CPT codes 99202-99205, 99211-99215) and will impact everyone who assigns codes, manages patient information, or pays claims including physicians, health information managers, coders, payers, health systems, and hospitals.

What can you do to prepare?

- [Watch our E/M Coding Changes for 2021 CME webinars](#) hosted by Dr. Thomas Weida and Kim Huey (Free for Members).

[Click here for more resources](#)



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- [Why achieving health equity is so hard in the telehealth age](#)
- [COVID-19 Symptoms Linger for Months for Many](#)
- [Pfizer Says Earliest COVID-19 Vaccine Application to US Would Be After Election](#)
- [Flu vaccination: 6 tips to win over the undecideds](#)

COVID-19

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