

US REPRESENTATIVE MCGARVEY MEETS WITH ASCAPAC SUPPORTERS

ASCAPAC supporters at ASCA 2023 in Louisville this May met with US Representative Morgan McGarvey (D-KY).



Recent congressional action, including a proposal to require cost reports from ASCs, highlights the critical need for carefully coordinated, broadly supported ASC advocacy at this time. To get involved, contact David

Opong-Wadee at dopongwadee@ascassociation.org.

UHC BACKTRACKS PRIOR AUTHORIZATION POLICY

On June 1, UnitedHealthcare (UHC) [announced](#) that a controversial prior authorization policy affecting almost all upper gastrointestinal (GI) endoscopy, colonoscopy and capsule endoscopy procedures will not take effect as expected. Instead, UHC is requesting “advance notification” from providers. The advance notification process will not result in any coverage denials, but provider groups that do not submit advance notifications will not be eligible for UHC’s [Gold Card program](#) expected to launch in 2024. Although exact details are yet to be released, UHC has indicated that provider groups with gold card status will be exempt from existing or future UHC prior authorization requirements across all specialties.

INFLATION OUTPACES INCOME GROWTH FOR SURGEONS

While surgical specialist physicians saw a 2.54% rise in median total compensation in 2022, that increase was eclipsed by a 6.5% rise in the consumer price index (CPI) that occurred at the same time, according to the 2023 Medical Group Management Association (MGMA) DataDive Provider Compensation report. Among other findings, the report indicates that 47% of medical groups now include quality performance metrics in their physician compensation plan, compared to 26% in 2016. The report reflects data from nearly 190,000 providers at more than 6,800 organizations. Download a [free summary](#) or purchase the full [DataDive platform](#).

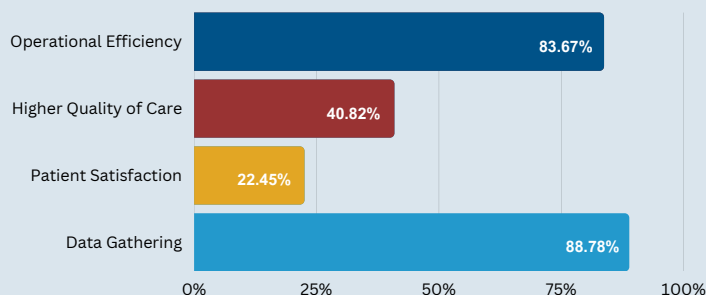
ASCA BACKS PHYSICIAN PAY BILL

On May 3, ASCA signed on to a letter in support of [H.R. 2474](#), the *Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act*. The legislation would apply a permanent, inflation-based update to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) conversion factor, ensuring that physician reimbursements keep pace with the cost of providing care. In recent years, Congress has been [forced to intervene](#) to prevent major cuts to Medicare physician reimbursement. ASCA submits comments on the annual MPFS proposed updates and works to support the efforts of other organizations that also support physicians who work in ASCs.

SURVEY SHOWS INCREASED EHR UPTAKE IN SURGERY CENTERS

In its [April 2023 60-Second Survey](#), ASCA polled facilities on their use of electronic health records (EHR). The survey followed a 2021 poll on the same topic. In 2023, 64% of ASCs reported using an EHR, up from 55% in 2021. Cost is still the primary barrier to implementation, although 84% of ASCs that don’t have an EHR see data gathering as a potential benefit, compared to just 32% in 2021. Among the 144 ASCs that indicated they are solely physician owned, 68% reported using an EHR.

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING ARE BENEFITS OF USING AN EHR?



Responses provided by physician-owned ASCs.