

Interest Group Profile

The California Medical Association (CMA) is a professional organization representing the physicians of California. It began in 1856 when a small group of physicians felt they had a calling to fight for their patients as well as their profession. The small group of physicians sought out help to create the Medical Society of the State of California, now known as the California Medical Association. Their mission is to "promote the science and art of medicine, protection of public health, and the betterment of the medical profession." (California Medical Association).

The goal of California Medical Association is to give their members the support needed to successfully run medical practices and to overcome possible challenges. CMA has more than 39,000 members with a wide range of specialties and practices in California. They serve their physicians through programs of economic, regulatory, legal and social advocacy.

The California Medical Association has made it their duty to assure everyone in California can get the care needed and individuals can be seen by a doctor. This is why the California Medical Association supports parts of the Affordable Care Act and disagrees with other parts. They agree with the expansion of healthcare to the uninsured and underinsured. Other parts of the

reform in which CMA agrees with is providing help to families who need it by making coverage more affordable and setting relationships between patients and doctors. Although they agree with the positive parts of the Affordable Care Act CMA doesn't agree that physicians have to make information available to the public without ensuring accuracy as well as insurance companies being allowed to ignore state laws protecting physicians and consumers. Overall 97% of CMA members favor fundamental health reform over no reform at all.

According to Paul Feldstein's article, *The Demand for Legislation and National Health Care Reform*, securing the highest method of reimbursement is important. This in turn eliminates price competition. This is why the California Medical Association set forth a bill in 2012 (AB 2064) asking insurers to not reimburse physicians for less than the actual cost of obtaining and conducting childhood immunizations. In the 2010 Health care Reform Act, CMA believed there needed to be a physician payment fix implemented for Medicare and Medicaid. This is to ensure physicians are getting paid fairly as well as assuring seniors and the poor have access to see a physician. CMA believes if dollars are being shifted away from higher-cost regions, it would be taking away from the individuals who need it. This goes along with securing the highest method of reimbursement. It's vital that physicians are reimbursed fairly

to ensure Medicare and Medicaid patients be seen. Feldstein also stated Medicaid and Medicare and private insurers is the most important way for health professionals to increase income and to work independently.

The California Medical Association has a substantial amount of power and offers many benefits to physicians as well as communities. They offer many benefits to the physicians of California and to the individuals who seek care. They offer legal help to their members, practice assistance, practice resources and educational programs to physician members and their staff. The California Medical Association Foundation also serves as a communicator between physicians and their communities. The Foundation focuses on many health issues and research, e.g. diabetes and antibiotics research. They also provide student community leadership grants, community service and outreach programs. CMA has the power to make physician practices successful and represents their members.

References

California medical association. (n.d.). Retrieved from

<http://www.cmanet.org/news/detail/?article=cma-doctors-want-health-reform>