



1001 Grand Avenue
West Des Moines, IA 50265
(515) 223-1401
(800) 747-3070

Geographic Equity in Medicare (GEM) Coalition

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

American Society of General Surgeons

Arkansas Medical Society

Idaho Medical Association

Iowa Medical Society

Kansas Medical Society

Kentucky Medical Association

Maine Medical Association

Medical Association of the State of Alabama

Minnesota Medical Association

Mississippi State Medical Association

Missouri State Medical Association

Montana Medical Association

Nebraska Medical Association

New Hampshire Medical Association

New Mexico Medical Society

North Dakota Medical Association

Ohio State Medical Society

Oklahoma State Medical Association

Oregon Medical Association

South Dakota Medical Association

Tennessee Medical Association

Utah Medical Association

Vermont Medical Society

Washington State Medical Association

Wisconsin Medical Society

Wyoming Medical Society

Americans everywhere pay equal premiums to support Medicare, yet there is substantial geographic disparity in patient services and physician reimbursement levels in the Medicare Part B program. The degree of this disparity is unjustified and inherently unfair – and is having an increasingly negative impact on patient care and access in many parts of the United States.

GEM was formed to remedy this alarming inequity. The member organizations believe that federal policymakers must assign a high priority to eliminating Geographic Practice Cost Indices (GPCIs) and other components of the Medicare Part B program that result in this inappropriate and inequitable reimbursement to the tens of thousands of physicians across this country providing medical care to millions of Medicare beneficiaries. The critical nature of this problem compels immediate attention and action.

For over a decade, members of this coalition and others working through the Geographic Coalition have addressed these gross disparities. Productive improvements in Medicare Plus Choice helped lay the foundation to continue to address these inequities experienced by many patients and their physicians.

GEM member organizations are listed to the left.

Ongoing GEM Legislative Goals

- Make the floor of 1.00 for the work GPCI permanent. (The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 established the floor of 1.00 for the work GPCI for three years, 1/1/2004 through 12/31/2006. The Tax Relief & Health Care Act of 2006 extended the floor through 12/31/07. The Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007 further extended the floor through 6/30/2008.)
- Incrementally increase both the practice expense GPCI and the professional liability insurance GPCI to 1.00 over the next ten years.