



Anesthesiology News Updates

**NOVEMBER
2012**

It's Time to Panic

South Carolina hospitals are facing nearly \$15 billion in lost revenue between now and 2020. Do you have any idea what portion of that burden your hospital or system will bear? I do. And I can tell you that it is time to take action to blunt the impact of this attack on our hospitals' bottom lines. [Read More](#)

SC Medicaid director: Payouts may exceed his budget next year

The leader of the state agency which oversees Medicaid is warning lawmakers that the number of South Carolinians who rely on the health program could increase faster than the state can pay for them. [Read More](#)

Election doesn't change S.C. position on Medicaid expansion

Although President Barack Obama's re-election guarantees his health care law will remain on the books, South Carolina's top health official said today the state remains on track to pass on Medicaid expansion. [Read More](#)

Final 2013 Medicare physician fee schedule rule released

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized the Medicare physician fee schedule for 2013. Unless Congress intervenes, the rule implements a 26.5 percent reduction in Medicare physician payments in 2013 based on the sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula. MGMA will continue its steadfast advocacy efforts to repeal the flawed SGR formula, and we encourage you to reach out to your lawmakers on this critical issue. [Read More](#)

ASA Survey Results for Commercial Fees Paid for Anesthesia Services - 2012

ASA is pleased to present the annual commercial conversion factor survey for 2012. Each summer we anonymously survey anesthesiology practices across the country, asking them to report up to five of their largest managed care (commercial) contracts conversion factors (CFs) and the percentage each contract represents of their commercial population, along with some demographic information. Our objectives on the survey are to report to our members the average contractual amounts for the top five contracts and to present a regional survey of trends in commercial contracting. [Read More](#)

ASA Rebukes CMS Rule for Jeopardizing Patient Safety and Quality Health Care

ASA today expressed its serious concern regarding the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) decision to adopt a new and untested national policy that will allow Medicare funds to be used to pay untrained providers to diagnose and treat chronic pain. The policy jeopardizes patient safety, lowers the quality of health care and increases the risk for fraud and prescription drug abuse. [Read More](#)

UnitedHealthcare selling S.C. Medicaid operations to Fla. firm

UnitedHealth Group is selling its South Carolina Medicaid operations to a Florida insurance company that specializes in Medicare and Medicaid services for 2.6 million people across the U.S. [Read More](#)

S.C. among best states for physicians

South Carolina was ranked as one of the best states to be a practicing physician by *Physicians Practice's 2012 Best States to Practice project*, a data-driven ranking of the states based on the climate for practicing physicians. [Read More](#)