Dear Family Physician,

Income Equity Implementation Delays – Family Physician Feedback

On July 8, I sent an SGP Bulletin asking for feedback regarding next steps the Section of General Practice should take to move income equity implementation forward.

We received plenty of feedback on this topic and we have reviewed all of it. Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their thoughts and perspectives. I would like to take this opportunity to share the broad strokes of what we heard…

Many emails voiced disappointment, supported perseverance, and moving from status quo.

Family physicians expressed disappointment in the delay of the process. There is a perception that there is a lack of enthusiasm and no benefit to the AMA to move forward. Many reflected on the history of previous failed attempts and expressed a sense that there is purposeful stalling in the process.

There is still support for the Section of General Practice to persevere with the AMA’s process and an understanding that good work takes time, we need to remain positive and not give up on the process.

However, there is consensus that SGP should NOT maintain the status quo. Many physicians did support seeking external advice, looking to other information resources nationally (maybe internationally), challenging the AMA Board on its present strategy and developing more strategies to continue the income equity process.

There were some physicians who felt that the only way we can move forward is to develop our own professional association outside of the AMA since we have been unsuccessful for decades in achieving equity for family physicians within the AMA.

Other physicians reminded us we need to continue our own work on equity within the section; supporting overhead challenged community-based practices, recognizing time vs. procedure in our fee codes and examining capitation models and capping strategies that better reflect today’s practices.

SGP Executive will be reviewing and discussing options for our next steps at our meeting in September.

What’s in a name? Section of General Practice to become Section of Family Medicine

As we communicated earlier this year, we will be moving forward with a motion to change the name of the section from the Section of General Practice to the Section of Family Medicine at our SGP Annual Meeting in September 2019. We have not faced any challenges in the process, and we look forward to the discussion in September.

Once again, thank you to everyone who has provided feedback regarding income equity. We are still open to feedback on this or any other issues that are important to you. The email is gppres@albertadoctors.org.

Regards,

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President - AMA Section of General Practice