



MINUTES

AHP Spring Meeting

March 11, 2025

Chair: Scott Roth, MD

Co-Chairs: Ann Rogers, MD, Kevin Wasco, MD & David Tichansky, MD

Committee Staff: Julie Miller

Attendance: Drs. Wasco, Grasso, Davis, Sheth, Goldberg, Catania, Walters, Rogers, Tichansky, Pons, Selzer, Shah, Fuchshuber, Hosein

- I. Call to Order and Introductions
- II. Approve Prior Meeting Minutes – Fall 2024 minutes approved
- III. Review Committee Goals:
 - a. Keep the general membership and executive committee informed and educated of current and pending legislative action
 - b. Maintain SAGES involvement, participation, and representation in national and state legislative functions involving health care related issues
 - c. Continue to participate and pursue appropriate CPT coding for our membership with representation and communication with the RUC
 - d. Enlighten and educate the press, employers, and legislative bodies about MIS options for patients
 - e. Enlighten and educate patients and the public of their minimally invasive options if they are to undergo surgery.
- IV. Hot Topics (Update from Rob)
 - o Discussed AHP/Hot Topics group pursuing a SAGES statement on the dismantling of healthcare, defunding the NIH, and what SAGES is doing behind the scenes, one that the majority of membership would support.
 - o Rob's video booth in Long Beach for members to create short patent-focused videos advocating for a range of issues, including Medicare and how decreased funding will affect patient care.
- V. Surgical Coalition Report (Update from Ross):
 - o Ongoing focus on Medicare reform and reducing continued pay cuts
 - o Consensus to keep \$20k in the AHP budget, with increased push to get summary reports from the coalition and ensure that SAGES isn't missing any opportunities
 - o Another ongoing reminder about the importance of joining the AMA so that SAGES can retain representation and have a voice. System continues to need overhaul with all surgeons being united, educated and more engaged.
- VI. CPT/RUC (update from Kevin and Ketan):
 - o Boston Scientific code cat 1 approved with no society sponsor. CMS can still modify 90-day global procedure.
 - o Series of 9 diaphragmatic codes for slated for June (not for implementation until 2027)
 - o New LINX (43821) code change



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- Randomized MAL code survey sent to society members in early March, with results TBD. Code will likely be re-evaluated and short-lived

VII. AMA Report (Paresh/Kevin Reavis/Ross):

- Focus on Medicare 8 percent cut
- Jarvis to now be an AMA alternate and Sierra an AMA observer

VIII. New Business/Ideas/Projects:

- No additional new projects but reminder about the importance of Congressional outreach (Julie to push via SAGES social media platforms)

Meeting concluded.