



Society of Gynecologic Oncology

SOCIETY OF GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY: 2022–2023 ADVOCACY GOALS

The Society of Gynecologic Oncology's (SGO) mission is to prevent and treat gynecologic cancers with equity, thereby improving lives through advocacy, engagement, education, research, and collaboration. Through its Health Policy and Socioeconomic Committee (HPSE), the organization engages with Congress and the Executive Branch to influence policies affecting members and their patients. To support the delivery of care and improve patient outcomes, SGO is prioritizing the following goals for each HPSE subcommittee that address specific topics that fall within their scopes. When appropriate, member education through webinars and written communications will be provided to support this work.

Coding and Reimbursement



GOAL: Advocate for policies that support sustainable Medicare reimbursement and to avert any cuts in Medicare physician reimbursement.

TACTICS:

- Work in coalition with other physician specialties to urge Congress to avert the cuts to Medicare reimbursement scheduled for January 1, 2023.
- Work in coalition with other medical specialties to urge Congress to support policies to create a sustainable reimbursement system that includes regular and predictable updates to the Medicare conversion factor.
- Engage grassroots in support of these policies as appropriate.



GOAL: Ensure SGO members have codes available that accurately describe the services they perform and are reimbursed accurately.

TACTICS:

- Participate in the American Medical Association's CPT® Editorial Panel and Relative Value Scale Update Committee through the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists' (ACOG) Committee on Health Economics and Coding (CHEC).
- Identify potential coding gaps and issues and engage with ACOG's CHEC to address these issues.
- Support the proposed changes to the inpatient evaluation and management (E/M) code descriptors, documentation requirements, and values through public comment on the Calendar Year (CY) 2023 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) and member education.
- Meet with staff at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) when appropriate.



GOAL: Advocate for changes to the global surgical packages to ensure they accurately reflect the work performed by members across the global period.

TACTICS:

- Work with members to develop an evidence base that demonstrates the full scope of services including gynecologic oncology globals and how the current global packages do not reflect that work and draft a position statement reflecting that information.
- Respond to the request for comment in the CY 2023 MPFS.
- Work in coalition with the surgical coalition as appropriate to engage with CMS and targeted members of Congress.
- Meet with staff at CMS either in coalition or alone when appropriate.



GOAL: Ensure that any changes to Medicare's practice expense calculations accurately reflect the cost of delivering gynecologic oncology care.

TACTICS:

- Submit comments on the CY 2023 MPFS on the continued phase-in of the updated clinical labor rates and any other proposed changes or updates to the practice expense methodology.
- Work in coalition with other affected specialties to engage with Congress and CMS on this issue as appropriate.
- Meet with staff at CMS either in coalition or alone when appropriate.



GOAL: Advocate for Medicare telehealth policies that support beneficiary access to care.

TACTICS:

- Identify services where there are coverage gaps and/or the medical evidence has evolved to support improved coverage policies by working within the subcommittee and soliciting issues from membership.
- Create dossiers with scientific evidence and model coverage policies to support SGO's arguments for expanded coverage.
- Meet with Medicare Administrative Contractors and CMS as appropriate.

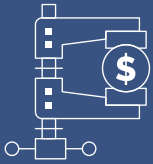


GOAL: Ensure payment policies do not impose unnecessary administrative burden on providers.

TACTICS:

- Review proposed rules to watch for the creation of payment policies that are overly burdensome and submit comment letters as appropriate.
- Develop resources for SGO members to assist navigating regulations that may impose significant administrative burden.
- Advocate for legislation and regulatory changes that reduce prior authorization requirements.

Payment Reform and Quality



GOAL: Develop an alternative payment model for gynecologic oncology.

TACTICS:

- Assess gynecologic cancers and patient populations, including size of the patient population, quality measures that exist or are in development, existing practice patterns and models of care and determine if there is a practice area in which patients and members would benefit from the development of a model. Special consideration should be given to social determinants of health and health equity.
- Meet with representatives from the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation Center (Innovation Center) once a concept is developed.
- Should the Innovation Center support a proposal, leverage Congressional support to advance the proposal.



GOAL: Ensure new and existing alternative payment models support the delivery of high-quality gynecologic oncology care.

TACTICS:

- Monitor the implementation of the Enhancing Oncology Model and identify lessons learned to inform future iterations that may include gynecologic cancers or may be addressed in other payment models.
- Evaluate existing models, like accountable care organizations, to ensure that they address the needs of participating members and provide comments when appropriate.
- When and if Congress revisits the authorization for the Quality Payment Program, advocate for policies that support models for patients with conditions like gynecologic cancers, particularly those where social determinants of health and health disparities are present.
- Advocate for reforms to the Quality Payment Program that promote participation in alternative payment models that are better integrated into practice patterns, appropriately adjusted for risk and are financially sustainable for practices.



GOAL: Advocate for the development and maintenance of quality measures that reflect the range of care for gynecologic cancers and to ensure the quality measures are appropriately risk adjusted.

TACTICS:

- Engage with CMS, the National Quality Forum, and other organizations as appropriate to ensure that gynecologic oncology measures appropriately reflect how gynecologic cancer treatment is delivered and surgeries are performed.
- As the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and CMS strive to improve equity, advocate to ensure that quality reporting programs are accurately risk adjusted to account for health disparities in the patient populations treated by SGO members.
- Advocate for the development of meaningful quality measures and risk adjustment when Congress considers legislation to reform Medicare payment.



GOAL: Support policies that ensure payment parity for all oncology procedures regardless of the patient's gender.

TACTICS:

- Encourage members to identify any potential inconsistencies in reimbursement.
- Develop tools for members to share with their institutions if disparities are occurring at that level.
- Engage with HHS and CMS as appropriate.
- Pursue legislative strategies, including messaging bills and report language, in instances to bolster administrative engagement.

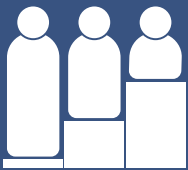
Legislative and Regulatory Affairs



GOAL: Advocate for policies to support access to care and increased screening of gynecologic cancers.

TACTICS:

- Assess and advocate for legislation that supports the development of and expands access to new and existing screening tests.
- Support legislation and regulations that expand access to care for gynecologic cancers.
- Engage with the administration on this topic, including the President's Cancer Cabinet, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Explore opportunities to address this issue in the Omnibus 2.0, Representative Lois Frankel's (D-FL) women's health legislation, the Jeannette Acosta Invest in Women's Health Act (H.R. 2216/S. 1063), and other vehicles as appropriate.



GOAL: Develop SGO's relationships with administration officials to increase research and improve access to care for gynecological cancers.

TACTICS:

- Develop relationships and hold meetings with NIH's Office of Research on Women's Health, the National Cancer Institute, the Cancer Cabinet, and the Office of Science and Technology Policy.
- Explore how to increase the number of gynecologic oncologists on NIH study sections.
- Advocate for equity, opportunity, and access to clinical trials for patients with gynecologic conditions.
- Engage with the White House Council on Women and Girls, particularly to address health disparities.



GOAL: Advocate for the highest possible funding level for NIH and other federal health research programs in fiscal years (FY) 2023 and 2024 while promoting research on gynecologic oncology.

TACTICS:

- Support the research community's FY 2023 and 2024 appropriations requests for the NIH and other federal research agencies with the intent to grow funding for "impactful" research.
- Develop and request report language on topics specific to gynecologic oncology related research and use data to the extent possible to support these requests.
- Engage grassroots when appropriate.



GOAL: Advocate for increased Department of Defense (DoD) research funding for gynecologic cancers.

TACTICS:

- Advocate for growth of the DoD's ovarian cancer research program in FYs 2023 and 2024.
- Urge Congress to include a specific line in the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) to support endometrial cancer research.
- Support the community funding requests for the CDMRP and Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program.
- Hold a Congressional briefing to educate members and their staff on public health burden and military relevance of these cancers.
- Engage grassroots at key points during the appropriations process.



GOAL: Advocate for policies to eradicate vaccine preventable cancers, such as cervical cancer.

TACTICS:

- Advocate for reimbursement policies that support vaccine counseling and education.
- Engage with the President's Cancer Moonshot panel as cancer prevention is a focus of the effort.
- Support funding for programs administered by the CDC to increase education and awareness of vaccines.
- Partner with other organizations whose members administer vaccines, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Physicians, and the American Academy of Family Physicians.



GOAL: Increase SGO's grassroots engagement.

TACTICS:

- Hold at least one advocacy fly-in, either virtual or in-person, per year.
- Educate members on how to be an effective advocate through webinars, grassroots toolkits and other communications.
- Regularly engage members by sending action alerts on SGO's priorities.



GOAL: Cultivate existing and new congressional champions to position the SGO's advocacy to succeed regardless of which political party is in control in Washington.

TACTICS:

- Hold a virtual and/or in-person advocacy day in support of our appropriations and other legislative requests and recruit participants based on a list of potential champions.
- Create and/or maintain relationships with the sponsors of legislation championed by SGO.
- Use educational materials developed by SGO to do outreach to key members of Congress, including Welcome to Congress materials for the 118th Congress.



GOAL: Strengthen partnerships and collaborations with like-minded patient groups.

TACTICS:

- Leverage SGO's Foundation for Women's Cancer to strengthen relationships with patient organizations.
- Invite a member of the Foundation's staff as well as patient advocates to participate in the advocacy fly-in.
- Hold at least one lunch-and-learn or other collaborative, educational event per year.