NEWSLETTER

ACR UPDATES

Did you know that ACR provides a variety of courses, growth opportunities, and connections through the Member Updates? To stay updated and be part of these resources, please ensure your email is current in your profile on the ACR Website. Here is ACR's most recent update...

A HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE MAINE RADIOLOGIC SOCIETY

Dear Members of the Maine Radiologic Society,

As we approach the close of the year and the holiday season, I want to take a moment to reflect on our journey together as a small but dedicated radiologic community here in Maine. I also want to offer my sincere thanks for your patience, understanding, and continued support as we continue to strengthen our society after the adverse effects of COVID workforce shortages and busy family lives.

As your new president, I would be remise not to point out that, like many small organizations, we've faced the challenge of limited volunteerism and member participations exacerbated by the many factors discussed. Our success relies on the dedication of those willing to give their time and energy to move initiatives forward as we are a volunteer community as the Maine Radiologic Society. A small share of the dues paid each year to the ACR helps sponsor resident physicians for the annual ACR meeting and other learning opportunities such as the Radiology Learning Institute for all members of the MRS. Our management fees for the administrative help of Maine Medical Association rounds out the remainder of our annual costs. In addition to my message, I will include some examples of how we have helped assist the ACR in a forward focused direction for the field of radiology during these trying times.

That said, I do want to emphasize how incredibly grateful I am for the commitment of all of you who have continued to support the MRS, despite these challenges. Even in the face of limited resources, we've still managed to make strides, connect with one another, and maintain the high standards of care and professionalism that define radiology in Maine. Your continued engagement—whether in small ways or large—has been the backbone of this Society.

As we look ahead, I remain optimistic about what we can accomplish together. We know that our Society thrives when we collaborate, and I'm hopeful that we can find new ways to rally more volunteers and increase participation in the year to come. Our goal remains to strengthen our community, advocate for the needs of our profession, and provide valuable educational resources, but we can't do this alone. I encourage each of you to consider how you might contribute to the coming year—whether it's through time, expertise, or ideas.

I believe that with renewed energy and a collective effort, we can make 2024 a year of progress and growth for the Maine Radiologic Society. I am committed to working closely with all of you to ensure that we stay true to our mission and fulfill the needs of our members.

In the meantime, I want to wish you and your loved ones a restful, joyful holiday season. Thank you again for your continued dedication to our profession. I look forward to a productive, collaborative, and rewarding year ahead.

Warm regards,
Christopher Mutter
President
Maine Radiologic Society

ACR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2024

Over the past year, the American College of Radiology (ACR) has made significant strides in advancing the field of radiology through a combination of advocacy, education, and innovation. Key accomplishments include:

1. **Advocacy and Policy:** The ACR continued to be a strong voice for radiology professionals, successfully advocating for key legislative issues such as improved reimbursement for radiology services, the expansion of coverage for imaging procedures, and enhanced patient access to high-quality care. The ACR also played a crucial role in advancing patient safety and quality initiatives.
2. **Workforce and Diversity Initiatives:** The ACR launched new programs aimed at addressing workforce shortages in radiology and promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within the profession. These efforts included new mentorship programs, leadership training for underrepresented groups, and initiatives to attract the next generation of radiologists.
3. **Education and Research:** The ACR expanded its educational offerings with new CME opportunities, including webinars, workshops, and online courses, to help radiologists stay ahead of the latest technological advancements. In addition, the College continued to foster cutting-edge research in areas like artificial intelligence (AI) in imaging, with a focus on improving diagnostic accuracy and patient outcomes.
4. **Patient-Centered Initiatives**: The ACR reinforced its commitment to patient-centered care by expanding initiatives aimed at improving communication between radiologists and patients, as well as supporting efforts to enhance patient understanding of imaging procedures and results.

Overall, this was a year of growth and progress for the ACR, as it continued to strengthen the radiology profession, advocate for radiologists' interests, and drive advancements that benefit both providers and patients

Specific examples how the American College of Radiology (ACR) has helped save radiologists money over the past year:

1. **Medicare Reimbursement Advocacy**: The ACR successfully advocated for the prevention of a planned Medicare reimbursement cut, which would have reduced payments for radiology services. This saved radiologists across the country millions of dollars.
2. **Reducing Prior Authorization Burden**: The ACR pushed for the expansion of Medicare's "gold card" program, which exempts certain providers (including radiologists) from prior authorization requirements. This saves time and administrative costs, reducing the burden on radiology practices.
3. **Negotiating Imaging Fee Schedules**: Through ongoing advocacy, the ACR helped prevent further cuts to imaging codes, ensuring that radiologists continue to receive fair compensation for their services, thus protecting revenue streams for imaging practices.
4. **Tax and Financial Advocacy:** The ACR worked with policymakers to delay certain tax increases and ensure that radiology practices are eligible for financial relief programs, saving radiologists money on taxes and operational costs.

These are just a few ways in which the ACR has directly impacted the financial bottom line for radiologists over the past year.

MEMBER RESOURCES

Access a wealth of resources, including research articles, case studies, and professional development tools on our website. Stay connected and informed with the latest in radiology.

ACR Resources

ACR RELEASES CODE-SPECIFIC IMPACT TABLES FOR MPFS FINAL RULE

The American College of Radiology® (ACR®) created impact tables that illustrate how the 2025 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) final rule affects specific radiology-related tests and procedures. The tables cover specific changes in reimbursement rates between 2024 and 2025 for each Current Procedural Terminology® (CPT®) code. The analysis includes spreadsheets for the 70,000 series CPT codes and the non-70,000 CPT codes billed by radiologists, interventional radiologists and/or radiation oncologists. See full article here...

ACR Member Action Vital Now to Move End-of-Year Legislation in Congress

As the nation moves past the election season and Congress is scheduled to return to Capitol Hill Nov. 12, many issues that affect patients and radiologists remain to be resolved before year's end. Of key priority to American College of Radiology® (ACR®) members are addressing looming Medicare physician payment cuts that take effect Jan. 1; ensuring the federal government implements the No Surprises Act (NSA) as Congress intended; garnering support for legislation to improve early detection and diagnosis of breast cancer; and ensuring the appropriate use criteria (AUC) program is implemented. Select here to read full article...