

also recommended that the measure developers provide a more clear definition of “planned admission” as the current language could lead to facilities “gaming” the measure in the reporting of “planned admissions.”

- Comments were due to the measure developer, Yale New Haven Health Services Corporation – Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation (CORE), on August 7.
- The next steps for this measure: the measure developer will seek to get the measure National Quality Forum (NQF)-endorsed, because although NQF endorsement is not required for CMS to consider adding to the ASC Quality Reporting Program, it is preferred by CMS. At this point, the earliest we would see its addition to our quality reporting program would be for 2021 data collection.

## Medicare Physician Fee Schedule

This fee schedule proposed changes to anesthesia reimbursement for colonoscopies/endoscopies. Our concern is that the proposal operates on the notion that increased utilization should be used to justify a decrease in base units for anesthesia for colonoscopy. The changes could lead to a decrease in reimbursement of between 12 percent and 28 percent based on the average units billed. We sent a message to the membership asking them to submit comments on the proposal during the public comment period. More information on the impact to ambulatory anesthesiologists can be found on the SAMBA website.

- The public comment period closed on September 11, 2017.
- The final rule was released on November 2, 2017.

## Present Your Medically Challenging Cases at ANESTHESIOLOGY® 2018

Submission Deadline: **May 31, 2018** (11:59 p.m. CT)

The Medically Challenging Cases sessions provide attendees and residents the opportunity to present interesting and challenging cases that they have managed in their own practice. This section has continued to be a resounding success, and each year the number of presentations has grown, with more than 1,600 poster sessions presented at the 2017 meeting. Discussion is very lively at the poster presentations, and each year the committee has strived to provide the most interactive and educational experience possible. In 2017, the moderated discussions were



enhanced to provide increased time for interaction among the moderators, presenters and attendees, which promoted more in depth discussion, feedback and a comprehensive educational experience. Medically Challenging Cases were presented using an electronic format where each session was moderated by an expert physician faculty member. Each session was overseen by a member of the Committee on Scientific and Education Exhibits.

Participate in ANESTHESIOLOGY® 2018 in San Francisco by submitting your interesting case for presentation. Medically Challenging Case submissions are open to the public and must be submitted online through **[goanesthesiology.org/submissions](http://goanesthesiology.org/submissions)**. ASA members may submit their cases for free. Watch for the submission site to open on February 12, 2018 and run through May 31, 2018.