

UPDATE



# neurosurgery

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 19, 2015

**Contact:**

Katie Orrico

(202) 446-2024

[korrico@neurosurgery.org](mailto:korrico@neurosurgery.org)

**Neurosurgeons Praise Efforts Made to Repeal Medicare’s Flawed Physician Payment System**  
*Legislation Reflects Many of Neurosurgery’s Core Principles for SGR Reform*

Washington, DC – The American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) applaud the efforts of leaders in the House of Representatives to pass legislation to repeal and replace Medicare’s flawed sustainable growth rate (SGR) payment formula before the 21 percent pay cut goes into effect on April 1, 2015. The “[SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act of 2015](#),” reflects many of neurosurgery’s core principles and takes the following important steps to transform the way Medicare pays physicians:

- Repeals the SGR and includes a period of stability in Medicare physician payments;
- Restructures and streamlines physician-led quality improvement that allows the medical specialty societies to determine the most appropriate and clinically relevant quality improvement metrics and strategies for use in future quality initiatives; and
- Adopts flexible criteria that allow physician participation and engagement in delivery and payment models that are meaningful to their practices and patient populations, including preserving a fee-for-service option and recognizing the value of clinical data registries for improving quality.

“Neurosurgeons appreciate the tireless efforts by leaders in Congress to develop legislation that fixes the broken Medicare payment system,” said Dr. John A. Wilson, a neurosurgeon from Winston-Salem, NC and chairman of the AANS/CNS Washington Committee. “We are encouraged that the bill establishes a stable mechanism for reimbursing doctors and will help create a delivery system that promotes high-quality, high-value, and better-coordinated care for our patients.”

###

*The American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS), founded in 1931, and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), founded in 1951, are the two largest scientific and educational associations for neurosurgical professionals in the world. These groups represent over 8,000 neurosurgeons worldwide. Neurological surgery is the medical specialty concerned with the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of disorders that affect the entire nervous system, including the spinal column, spinal cord, brain and peripheral nerves. For more information, please visit [www.aans.org](http://www.aans.org) or [www.cns.org](http://www.cns.org) or [www.neurosurgeryblog.org](http://www.neurosurgeryblog.org).*