CHAMPIONING REGULATORY RELIEF

The AADA works tirelessly with officials in Congress, government health agencies, and private payers to ensure that our specialty and patients are a priority when shaping policy and regulations.

Strengthening Medicare

The AADA recognizes that more needs to be done to ease regulatory burdens on physicians, which costs money and time away from patients. To strengthen Medicare and improve patient care, the AADA in 2019:

- Secured additional MACRA reforms to ease burdens for small practices and improve patient care.
- Obtained 11 appointments of dermatologists to CMS’ MACRA Clinical Committee.
- Authored a Letter to the Editor in the Annals of Surgery Journal raising concerns about the recent RAND reports questioning the 10- and 90-day global periods.
- Successfully advocated for the elimination of a proposal to reduce the payment for patient care from treatment disruption, the Academy responded to a wide range of regulatory comment opportunities and collaborated with stakeholders in coalitions and partnerships.
- Successfully advocated for the inclusion in the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System Program.
- Successfully advocated for the inclusion of a proposal to reduce the payment for patient care.
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- Successfully advocated for the inclusion of a proposal to reduce the payment for patient care.

Reducing physician burden

To relieve the administrative burdens on dermatologists and protect their patients, from treatment disruption, the Academy responded to a wide range of regulatory comment opportunities and collaborated with stakeholders in coalitions and partnerships. We helped to simplify practice management by removing burdensome and inefficient requirements. The AADA successfully launched a new Employer Engagement initiative to address the administrative pressures on dermatologists.

In addition to working with private payers, we were able to initiate a full update in reimbursement patterns related to biopsy codes. Because of the relationship the AADA has with the federal agencies, we were able to correct improper reimbursement patterns related to biopsy codes.

Early in 2019, the AADA worked with several insurers to correct improper reimbursement patterns related to biopsy codes. Because of the relationship the AADA has with the federal agencies, we were able to correct improper reimbursement patterns related to biopsy codes.

Over 300 AADA members, provided content expertise in 2019 that led to the submission of more than 24 comment letters from the AADA to regulatory agencies and private payers.

“Even in a challenging political landscape, we saw success from every angle and brought the dermatology voice front and center. It wouldn’t be possible without the knowledge and dedication by our members and staff to improve the specialty and provide the best care for patients. In 2019, the AADA was resilient in moving the needle forward, working collaboratively with stakeholders in coalitions and partnerships. I’m proud of what we accomplished and ready to build on that momentum in 2020.”

– Barbara Greenan, Chief Advocacy & Policy Officer
Championing Regulatory Relief

The AADA works tirelessly with officials in Congress, government health agencies, and private payers to ensure that our specialty and patients are a priority when shaping policy and regulations.

Strengthening Medicare

The AADA recognizes that more needs to be done to ease regulatory burdens on physicians, which costs money and time away from patients. To strengthen Medicare and improve patient care, the AADA in 2019:

- Secured additional MACRA reforms to ease burdens for small practices and obtained 11 appointments of dermatologists to CMS’ MACRA Clinical Committee.
- Successfully advocated for the elimination of a proposal to reduce the payment for biopsy codes.
- Supported changes to medical record documentation.
- Authored a Letter to the Editor in the Annals of Surgery Journal raising concerns about the recent RAND reports questioning the 10- and 90-day global periods.
- Successfully maintained low-volume threshold for MIPS participation.
- Successfully advocated for future comment opportunities on how federal agencies can help improve the physician-patient relationship and avoid physician burnout.

Additionally, the AADA successfully launched a new Employer Engagement Initiative, aimed at developing relationships between employer health plans and the AADA. These relationships ensure that public policies address the ever-changing needs of our specialty and provide the best care for patients. In 2019, the AADA was resilient in moving the needle forward, working collaboratively with stakeholders in coalitions and partnerships. I’m proud of what we accomplished and ready to build on that momentum in 2020.”

– Barbara Greenan, Chief Advocacy & Policy Officer

Reducing Physician Burden

To relieve the administrative burdens on dermatologists and protect our patients from treatment disruption, the Academy responded to a wide range of regulatory comment opportunities led by the Federal agencies that help us navigate the physician payment arena. The Academy’s advocacy strategies include溴化磷 (HRPA) and advance practice physician (APP) interagency intervention by supporting up-front cost and adding new comment letters.

Early in 2019, the AADA worked with several insurers to correct improper reimbursement for biopsy codes. Because of the relationship the AADA has with the private payers, we were able to initiate a full update in reimbursement patterns related to the biopsy codes. Additionally, the AADA successfully launched a new Employer Engagement Initiative, aimed at developing relationships between employer health plans and the AADA. These relationships include providing the dermatology voice where it counts.

In 2019, we achieved record-breaking attendance at the AADA’s Legislative Conference, where dermatologists promoted skin cancer prevention, reduced administrative burden, added our voice in the drug pricing and transparency debate, and so much more than we can describe in the pages following. We are proud of what we accomplished in 2019 and look forward to building on that momentum in 2020.

Sabra Sullivan, MD, PhD, FAAD
Chair, Council on Government Affairs and Health Policy

RAISING THE DERMATOLOGY VOICE

2019 Progress Report

Director, State Policy

- Kelley Lott, CAE, IOM, Director, Legislative, Political & Grassroots Advocacy
- Beth Laws, MS, Assistant Director, Healthcare Economics
- Shawn Friesen, MBA, Associate Director, Congressional Policy
- James Sweeney, MD, MBA, Senior Specialist, Grassroots Advocacy and Congressional Affairs
- Victoria Pasko, Assistant Director, State Policy

Director, Federal Legislative, Political & Grassroots Advocacy

- Lisa Albany, MA, Specialist, Grassroots Advocacy and Congressional Affairs
- Lisa Allen, MA, Specialist, Grassroots Advocacy and Congressional Affairs
- Christine O’Connor, MS, Manager, Advocacy and Policy

Director, Regulatory and Payment Policy

- Leanne Stone, JD, Director, Regulatory and Payment Policy
- Masha Bely, JD, Director, Legislative, Political & Grassroots Advocacy
- Rich Meyers, MA, Specialist, Grassroots Advocacy and Congressional Affairs

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A TRUSTED VOICE IN WASHINGTON

Over 300 AADA members, provided content expertise in 2019 that led to the submission of more than 24 comment letters from the AADA to regulatory agencies and private payers.
ELEVATING THE SPECIALTY WITH POLICYMAKERS

The AADA provides a voice to dermatologists by ensuring public policies address the needs of patients and the specialty. In 2019, the AADA continued to work with policy leaders at the state and federal level to ensure dermatologists are heard. This work was essential in elevating the specialty and advancing patient care.

**2019 Legislative Conference, AADAOnTheHill**

This year's conference focused on state and federal legislation, with more than 300 AADA members and staff meeting virtually. Participants discussed the latest policies and their impact on dermatologists and patients. The AADA continued to advocate for continued access to medications prepared in the clinical setting, and the importance of sun protection and skin cancer prevention.

**Impacting Dermatology on Minority Communities**

The AADA joined multiple states and communities to discuss the impact of skin disorders on minority communities. In Tennessee, AADA members supported the Nashville-area dermatologists' effort to secure state laws that allow students to use sunscreen and sun-protective clothing during school activities.

**SkinSerious campaign**

The SkinSerious campaign used real stories of dermatologists and their patients to help educate policymakers about the importance of access to care. The campaign reached over 5 million ad impressions and generated nearly 200,000 media impressions in 2019, helping to raise awareness and support for dermatologists' ability to provide care to their patients.

**National Conference of State Legislatures Legislative Summit**

The AADA exhibited at the National Conference of State Legislatures Legislative Summit, where members had the opportunity to meet with state legislators, national policymakers, and leaders from other healthcare associations. The AADA highlighted the importance of clear public communication and patient engagement in legislative efforts.

**PROMOTING SKIN CANCER PREVENTION**

The AADA advocates at the federal and state levels to educate policymakers about skin cancer prevention and detection, improve access to sunscreen, and promote increased regulation of sunscreens. The AADA works with the National Council on Skin Cancer Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to educate the public about sun-safe behaviors.

**SECURING RELIEF FROM UNREASONABLE DRUG APPROVAL PROTOCOLS**

By meeting with policymakers and grassroots campaigns, the AADA drives home the need for drug pricing and access policies that are equitable to physicians and their patients. Policies such as prior authorization and step therapy place a third-party intermediary decision in the path between physicians and their patients, preventing needed care and access to the best treatment for patients.

**Prior authorization**

On September 11, 2019, Howard Bogren, MD, FAAD, testified at a Capitol Hill hearing on the challenges of step therapy and other barriers facing patients and their medical providers. Additionally, the AADA successfully advocated for increased prior authorization for medications and policies that determine in real-time whether prior authorization is needed for medications, including the prior authorization fee.

At the state level, the AADA assisted in passing prior authorization reform that would help streamline the administrative process for physicians and their staff.

**Step therapy**

The AADA understands the importance of step therapy in ensuring patients have access to the medications and treatments they need. The AADA continues to engage with patient advocate groups, manufacturers, the FDA Drug Division, the Office of Clinical Drug Evaluation, and Congress about the impact of step therapy on patients and their treatment.

**COMPELLING DATA**

- **In 2019, the AADA provided more than 1,742 policy briefs to policymakers at the state and federal levels.**
- **Over 250 attendees** during our annual Capitol Hill Skin Cancer Health Fair and Screening, which submitted policy briefs from Congressionally funded organizations and the general public during the year.
- **40 volunteers as part of the AADA Volunteers for Dermatology**
- **Nashville-area dermatologists**
- **In 2019, the AADA submitted comments to CMS, HL7, and other government health agencies as they released several proposed rules related to drug manufacturer rebates and pharmacy benefit managers, real-time price transparency, and cost of drugs, and utilization management requirements for drugs.**
- **Additionally, drug shortages continued to impact patient care. That year, the AADA continues to engage with patient advocate groups, manufacturers, the FDA Drug Division, the Office of Clinical Drug Evaluation, and Congress about the impact of step therapy on patients and their treatment.**
- **The undersigned patient and provider organizations have come together in support of common biosimilar principles around increasing uptake of biosimilar biological products.**

**IMPROVING PHARMACEUTICAL ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY**

- **The AADA joined several health organizations to develop biosimilar principles in support of increasing access to appropriate biologic drugs.**
- **The AADA joined several health organizations to develop biosimilar principles in support of increasing access to appropriate biologic drugs.**

**A comprehensive solution across the drug supply chain is needed to preserve access and affordability, including market forces that have led to consolidation of drug manufacturers, the actual cost of drugs; skyrocketing pricing of medications; tiering practices that place higher cost drugs in prior authorization lists; and policies that force drug switching or cessation of effective therapies.**

**Drug pricing & transparency**

This year, the AADA submitted comments to CMS, HL7, and other government health agencies as they released several proposed rules related to drug manufacturer rebates and pharmacy beneﬁt managers, real-time price transparency, and cost of drugs, and utilization management requirements for drugs.

Additionally, drug shortages continued to impact access to medications and limiting decision-making by both physicians and patients. Legislation that is a critical tool to ensure patients have access to their prescription medications passed in Delaware, Washington, Michigan, Virginia, and Georgia. To date, 26 states have enacted step therapy reform laws.
The AADA provides a voice to dermatologists by ensuring public policies address the needs of dermatologists and their patients. The organization leverages its policy successes to inform the dermatology voice among policymakers and showed the value of their advocacy.

2019 Legislative Conference, AADAOnTheHill

The conference is the specialty’s largest forum meeting on legislation, regulatory, and political issues that affect dermatology. This year, we had record-breaking attendance, with more than 200 participants from 36 states who advocated important issues to their representatives.

Impact of Dermatology on Minority Communities

The AADA and four Academy members hosted a Congressional briefing on how to improve access to dermatology services for minority communities. Rep. John Joyce, MD, FAAD, provided opening remarks before each member delivered a presentation highlighting access barriers along with solutions to help better serve their patient populations.

SkinSerious campaign

The SkinSerious campaign uses real stories of dermatologists and their patients to help policymakers understand that dermatologists treat serious disease, work in collaboration with other health care professionals, and prioritize patients over profits. In 2019, the campaign generated 113 million media impressions through local and national coverage, and 90 million all-important dermatologists know and want to help patients over profits.

In 2019, the AADA received over 100,000 signees to the SkinSerious coalition letter. Nearly 60,000 visitors went to SkinSerious.org to read firsthand stories from patients impacted by a dermatologist’s care.

National Conference of State Legislatures Legislative Summit

The summit is an annual gathering of state legislators, legislative staff, and trade and professional associations for the purpose of sharing ideas, best practices, and strategies addressing the challenges facing state and federal policymakers. In Nashville, we gathered over 1,000 state legislators, their staff, and other attendees.

In 2019, the AADA gathered 250 attendees during our annual Capitol Hill Skin Cancer Health Fair and Screening, which included participants from Congressional offices and the general public. The event had 70 volunteers providing care to patients who provided over 100 skin cancer screenings and consultations for patients. The AADA brought the overall number of states with under 18 in-treatment prohibitions to 32.

Sunscreen

Although sunscreen products have an advocacy priority of the AADA for many years, we supported the passage of the 2015 Sunscreen Innovation Act, which sought to bring currently required for sunscreen ingredients.

Meeting with FDA to discuss its proposed rule, Sunscreen Drug Products for Over-the-Counter Human Use, which would allow physicians to prescribe sunscreen products for a specific reason, such as skin disorders, and the overall importance of clear public communication.

Hosting a webinar with a FDA oncology pharmacist to learn what safety testing is being required for sunscreen ingredients.

Securing state laws that allow students to use sunscreen and protective clothing during the school day and at summer camps without physician authorization.

SkinPAC, one of the largest physician PACs in the country, surpassed its fundraising goal with a record-breaking high of $903,855 raised and 1,742 donors, ensuring support for AADA advocacy priorities.

PROMOTING SKIN CANCER PREVENTION

The AADA advocates at the federal and state levels to educate policymakers about skin cancer prevention and detection, improve access to sunscreen, and promote increased regulation of indoor tanning. We partner with the National Council for Skin Cancer Prevention, National Institutes of Health, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to educate the public about sun safe behaviors.

In 2019, the AADA advocated for an increase in funding for the Skin Cancer Prevention Fund within the CDC, which is a $1 million increase from the last fiscal year.

The AADA empowers its members to take action and make their voice heard on Capitol Hill. In 2019, over 700 AADA members used the grassroots action center to contact their members of Congress, sending over 2,000 letters to the federal and state levels.

IMPROVING PHARMACEUTICAL ACCESS AND SAFETY

The AADA provided a voice to dermatologists by ensuring public policies address the needs of dermatologists and their patients. The organization leverages its policy successes to inform the dermatology voice among policymakers and showed the value of their advocacy.


By meeting with policymakers and grassroots campaign, the AADA drives home the importance of preventing harmful policies and protecting patients’ rights to health care by physicians in consultation with their patients. Policies such as prior authorization and step therapy place a third-party with no knowledge of the complexity of full history of a patient’s condition in decision-making position and impede patient access to the most effective treatment.

Prior authorization

On September 11, 2019, Howard Rogers, MD, FAAD, testified at a Capitol Hill hearing on step therapy and other barriers facing patients and clinical needs.

Additionally, the AADA successfully advocated for improvements in the prior authorization rules under CMS, which would allow physicians to determine in real time whether prior authorization is needed for medications, including the cost of prescription.

At the state level, the AADA assisted in passing prior authorization reform that would eliminate the administrative processes for physicians and their patients in Colorado, Kentucky, and Missouri.

Step therapy

Step therapy imposes treatment delays and has been shown to have a negative impact on patients, blocking access to medications and limiting decision making by both physicians and patients. Legislation that is a critical step to ensuring patients have access to their prescribed medications.

On September 11, 2019, Howard Rogers, MD, FAAD, testified at a Capitol Hill hearing on step therapy and other barriers facing patients and clinical needs.

Additionally, the AADA continues to engage with patient advocate groups, manufacturers, the FDA Drug Shortages Task Force, and Congress to raise awareness of the issue, search for supply options, and ultimately resolve drug shortages.

Compounding

Individually and through coalitions, the AADA advocates against restrictions on dermatologists’ ability to prescribe, administer, and dispense compounded medications.

Additional drug shortages can have an adverse impact on patients. That’s why the AADA continues to engage with patient advocate groups, manufacturers, the FDA Drug Shortages Task Force, and Congress to raise awareness of the issue, search for supply options, and ultimately resolve drug shortages.

The AADA joined several health organizations to develop biosimilar principles in support of increasing appropriate access to biosimilar biological products. We shared these principles with CMS and reinforced that the appropriate course of treatment should always be decided by the physician and patient.

The AADA advocates at the federal and state levels to educate policymakers about skin cancer prevention and detection, improve access to sunscreen, and promote increased regulation of indoor tanning. We partner with the National Council for Skin Cancer Prevention, National Institutes of Health, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to educate the public about sun safe behaviors.
The AADA provides a voice to dermatologists by ensuring public policies address the unique needs of dermatology and its patients. The AADA advocates for policies that protect the dermatology voice among policymakers and showed the value of their work.

2019 Legislative Conference, AADAOnTheHill

The conference is the specialty’s foremost meeting focused on legislation, regulatory, and political issues that affect dermatology. This year, we had record-breaking attendance, with more than 200 participants from 36 states advocating issues important to their practices and patients.

Impact of Dermatology on Minority Communities

The AADA and four Academy members hosted a briefing on Capitol Hill, where Congressional staff members gathered to learn firsthand stories from patients’ impact by a dermatologist’s care. Only by discussing the importance of dermatology in minority communities, Rep. John Joyce, MD, FAAD, provided opening remarks, and before each member delivered a presentation highlighting access barriers along with ways to better serve their patient populations.

SkinSerious campaign

The SkinSerious campaign uses real stories of dermatologists and their patients to help policymakers understand that dermatologists treat serious disease, work in collaboration with other health care providers, and are experts in their field. This year, Nashville-area dermatologists screened over 100 patients, and their staff, and other medical attendees.

SkinSerious campaign

• Secured $9 million for the Skin Cancer Prevention Fund within the CDC, which is a $1 million increase from the last fiscal year.
• Invited 250 attendees during our annual Capital Hill Skin Cancer Health Fair and Screening, which included participants from Congressional offices and the general public.
• Recruited over 100 volunteers who provided over 100 skin cancer screenings and consultations for patients.
• Brought the overall number of states with under 18% of lower-probability skin screenings to 32.

Sunscreen

Accurate information products has been an advocacy priority of the AADA for many years. We supported the passage of the 2015 Sunscreen Innovation Act, which sought to bring currently banned sunscreen ingredients to market. In 2019, there were conversations on the state, federal, and regulatory fronts around sunscreen safety and the AADA shared the dermatology perspective.

• Meeting with FDA to discuss its proposed rule, Sunscreen Drug Products for Over-the-Counter Human Use, which expands sunscreen’s use as a key protective tool, ingredient safety, and the overall importance of effective public communication.
• Hosting a webinar with a FDA dermal pharmacologist to learn what safety testing is being requested in sunscreen ingredients.
• Securing state laws that allow students to use sunscreen and sun protective clothing during the school day and at summer camps without physician authorization.

National Conference of State Legislatures Legislative Summit

The Summit is an annual gathering of state legislatures, legislative staffs, and trade and professional associations for the purpose of sharing ideas, best practices, and strategies addressing the challenges facing legislators. The summit was in Nashville, where dermatologists screened over 100 patients, and their staff, and other medical attendees.

SkinPAC, one of the largest physician PACs in the country, surpassed its fundraising goal with a record-breaking high of $903,855 raised and 1,742 donors, ensuring support for AADA advocacy priorities.

SkinPAC

• Fundraising $903,855 for the 2019 election cycle, with over 2,000 letters at the federal and state levels.

PROMOTING SKIN CANCER PREVENTION

The AADA advocates at the federal and state levels to educate policymakers about skin cancer prevention and detection, and improve access to sunscreen, and to promote increased regulation of indoor tanning. This year, we worked with the National Council for Skin Cancer Prevention, National Institutes of Health, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to educate the public about sun safety behaviors.

In 2019, the AADA shared the Sunscreen Innovation Act, which sought to bring currently banned sunscreen ingredients to market. In 2019, there were conversations on the state, federal, and regulatory fronts around sunscreen safety and the AADA shared the dermatology perspective.

• Meeting with FDA to discuss its proposed rule, Sunscreen Drug Products for Over-the-Counter Human Use, which expands sunscreen’s use as a key protective tool, ingredient safety, and the overall importance of effective public communication.
• Hosting a webinar with a FDA dermal pharmacologist to learn what safety testing is being requested in sunscreen ingredients.
• Securing state laws that allow students to use sunscreen and sun protective clothing during the school day and at summer camps without physician authorization.

SECURING RELIEF FROM UNREASONABLE DRUG APPROVAL PROTOCOLS

By meeting with policymakers and grassroots campaign, the AADA drives home the importance of FDA’s role in their patients’ lives. Participants empower policymakers to make the right decisions in their decision-making position and impact patients access to the most effective treatment.

Prior authorization

On September 11, 2019, Howard Rogens, MD, FAAD, testified as a Capitol Hill hearing on the prior authorization and other barriers facing patients and their medical practices.

Additionally, the American Academy of Dermatology successfully advocated for improvements in the prior authorization rate under CMS, which allowed physicians to determine in real-time whether their patients needed medication, including the point of prescribing.

At the state level, the AADA assisted in passing prior authorization reform that would help improve the administrative processes for physicians and their staff in Colorado, Kentucky, and Missouri.

Step therapy

Step therapy involves patients who have been shown to have a negative impact on patients, blocking access to medications and limiting decision-making by both physicians and patients. Legislation is a critical step to ensuring patients have access to their prescription medications passed in Delaware, Washington, Missouri, Virginia, and Georgia. To date, 26 states have enacted step therapy reform laws.

The AADA empowers its members to take action and make their voice heard on Capitol Hill. In 2019, over 700 AADA members used the grassroots action center to contact their members of Congress, sending over 2,000 letters at the federal and state levels.

IMPROVING PHARMACEUTICAL ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY

A comprehensive solution across the drug supply chain is needed to preserve access and address rising drug costs. The AADA advocates for policies that protect patients, including lowering costs, increasing access to new treatments, and reducing drug prices. The AADA advocates for policies that protect patients, including lowering costs, increasing access to new treatments, and reducing drug prices.

Drug pricing & transparency

The AADA supports legislation that increases transparency for pharmacies, public notification of significant price increases, and limit contracting requirements for medications.

In 2019, the AADA submitted comments to HHS, CMS, and other government health agencies as they released several proposed rules related to drug manufacturer rebates to pharmacy benefit managers, real-time prescription drug information, insurance, and cost of drugs, and utilization management requirements for drugs.

Additionally, drug shortages can have adverse impacts on patients. That’s why the AADA continues to engage with patient advocate groups, manufacturers, the FDA Drug Shortage Office, and with state and federal agencies to ensure that patients have access to the medications they need and to ultimately resolve drug shortages.

PROMOTING SKIN CANCER PREVENTION

Indoor Tanning Youth Access Laws

SkinPAC, one of the largest physician PACs in the country, surpassed its fundraising goal with a record-breaking high of $903,855 raised and 1,742 donors, ensuring support for AADA advocacy priorities.

SkinPAC

• Fundraising $903,855 for the 2019 election cycle, with over 2,000 letters at the federal and state levels.

The AADA joined several health organizations to develop biosimilar principles in support of increasing appropriate access to biosimilar biologic products. We shared these principles with CMS and reinforced that the appropriate course of treatment should always be decided by the physician and patient.
ELEVATING THE SPECIALTY WITH POLICY MAKERS

The AADA provides a voice to dermatologists by ensuring public policies address the important to their practices and patients.

Impact of Dermatology

On Minority Communities

The AADA and its Academy members hosted a Congressional staff day as part of a larger event. Staff members gathered to learn more about the impact of dermatology in minority communities. Rep. John Joyce, MD, FAAD, provided opening remarks before each member delivered a presentation highlighting access barriers along with ways to better serve their patient populations.

SkinSerious campaign

The SkinSerious campaign told real stories of dermatologists and their patients to help policymakers understand that dermatologists treat serious disease, work in collaboration with other health professionals throughout the health care team, and often face burdens facing patients and small medical practices.

In 2019, the AADA:

- Secured $4 million for the Skin Cancer Prevention Fund within the CDC, which is a $1 million increase from the last fiscal year.
- Attracted over 250 attendees during our annual Capitol Hill Skin Cancer Health Fair and Screening, which included participants from Congressional offices and the general public. The fair featured 17 volunteer, board-certified dermatologists who provided over 100 skin cancer screenings and consultations for patients.
- Brought the overall number of states with under 18 sunscreen having prohibitions to 32

Sunscreen

According to the American Academy of Dermatology, sunscreen products have an advocacy priority of the AADA for many years. We supported the passage of the 2015 Sunscreen Innovation Act, which sought to bring currently unapproved sunscreen products to the market faster. In 2019, the AADA had several key victories on the state and federal levels, including new federal funding. Congressional staffers, and trade and professional associations for the sharing of ideas, best practices, and strategies to address the challenges facing dermatologists.

PROMOTING SKIN CANCER PREVENTION

The AADA advocates at the federal and state levels to educate policymakers about skin cancer prevention and detection, improve access to sunscreen, and promote increased regulation of indoor tanning. We partner with the National Council for Skin Cancer Prevention, National Institutes of Health, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to educate the public about sun behavior.

SECURING RELIEF FROM UNREASONABLE DRUG PRICEPOLICY ORACULAR PROGRAMS

By meeting with policymakers and grassroots campaign, the AADA drives home the importance of bipartisanship in consideration of their patients. Policies such as prior authorization and step therapy place a third party with no knowledge of the complexity of full history of a patient's condition in a decision-making position and impact patient access to the most effective treatment.

Prior authorization

On September 11, 2019, Howard Roggin, MD, FAAD, testified at a Capitol Hill hearing on the importance of removing barriers to physical and other barriers facing patients and small medical practices.

Additionally, the AADA successfully advocated for improvements in prior authorization rules under CMS, which would allow physicians to determine in real time whether prior authorization should be required for the following:

- Additional therapies needed to treat a serious disease, such as cancer
- Emergency treatments for patients with life-threatening conditions
- Treatments to prevent serious harm

At the state level, the AADA assisted in passing prior authorization reform that would help decrease the administrative process for physicians and their patients in Colorado, Kentucky, and Missouri.

Step therapy

Step therapy interventions and have been shown to have a negative impact on patients, blocking access to medications and limiting decision-making by physicians and patients. Legislation that is a critical step to ensuring patients have access to their prescribed medications passed in:

- Wisconsin
- Maryland
- and patients. Legislation that is a critical step to ensuring patients have access to their prescribed medications.

By meeting with policymakers and grassroots campaigns, the AADA drives home the importance of bipartisanship in consideration of the needs to better serve their patient populations.

SKINCARE PROGRAMS

The AADA joined several health organizations to develop biosimilar principles in support of increasing appropriate access to biosimilar biologic products. We shared these principles with CMS and reinforced that the appropriate course of treatment should always be decided by the physician and patient.
“Even in a challenging political landscape, we saw success from every angle and brought the dermatology voice front and center. It wouldn’t be possible without the knowledge and dedication by our members and staff to improve the specialty and provide the best care for patients. In 2019, the AADA was resilient in moving the needle forward, working collaboratively with stakeholders in coalitions and partnerships. I’m proud of what we accomplished and ready to build on that momentum in 2020.”

— Barbara Greenan, Chief Advocacy & Policy Officer

Dear Colleagues:

I’m thrilled to share some of our major successes from 2019 and hope you’re inspired to be a part of the AADA’s progress in 2020.

In 2019, we achieved record-breaking attendance at the AADA’s Legislative Conference, promoted skin cancer prevention, reduced administrative burden, added our voice in the development of coding, coverage, and payment policies impacting practice management.

These efforts ensure that public policies address the ever-changing needs of our specialty and provide the best care for patients. In 2019, our specialty has an active role in the development of coding, coverage, and payment policies impacting practice management.

Through the AADA’s Legislative Conference, we promoted skin cancer prevention, reduced administrative burden, added our voice in the development of coding, coverage, and payment policies impacting practice management.

The AADA recognizes that more needs to be done to ease regulatory burdens on physicians, which can reduce morale and strain away from patients. To strengthen Medicare and improve patient care, the AADA in 2019:

• Secured additional MACRA reforms to ease burdens for small practices and maintain low-volume threshold for MIPS participation.
• Successfully advocated for the elimination of a proposal to reduce the payment for E/M visits.
• Supported changes to medical record documentation.

Chair, Council on Government Affairs and Health Policy

Sabra Sullivan, MD, PhD, FAAD

2019 Progress Report

RAISING THE DERMATOLOGY VOICE

Over 300 AADA members, provided content expertise in 2019 that led to the submission of more than 24 comment letters from the AADA to regulatory agencies and private payers.
CHAMPIONING REGULATORY RELIEF

The AADA works tirelessly with officials in Congress, government health agencies, and private payers to ensure that our specialty and patients are a priority when shaping policy and regulations.

Strengthening Medicare

The AADA recognizes that more needs to be done to ease regulatory burdens on physicians, which costs money and time away from patients. To strengthen Medicare and improve patient care, the AADA in 2019:

- Secured additional MACRA reforms to ease burdens for small practices and maintain low-volume thresholds for MIPS participation.
- Successfully advocated for the elimination of a proposal to reduce the payment for E/M visits.
- Supported changes to medical record documentation.
- Authored a letter to the Editor in the Annals of Surgery journal raising concerns about the recent RAND reports questioning the 10- and 10-day global periods.
- Obtained 11 appointments of dermatologists to CMS’ MACRA Clinical Committee, who successfully guided CMS to develop a more realistic cost measure for future inclusion in the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System Program.

Reducing physician burden

To relieve the administrative burdens on dermatologists and protect their patients from treatment disruption, the Academy responded to a wide range of regulatory comment opportunities led by Federal agencies as well as the pharmaceutical industry. We worked with CMS to improve the Healthcare Richie, and advance physician friendly EHR interoperability without driving up cost and adding new inefficiencies.

Early in 2019, the AADA worked with several insurers to correct improper reimbursement for biopsy codes. Because of the relationship the AADA has with the private payers, we were able to initiate a full update on reimbursement related to the great strides of the AADA’s members and staff, dermatology has an active role in the development of coding, coverage, and payment policies impacting practice management.

In 2019, we achieved record-breaking attendance at the AADA’s Legislative Conference, promoted skin cancer prevention, reduced administrative burden, added our voice in the drug pricing and transparency debate, and so much more than we can describe in the following pages.

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I’m thrilled to share some of our major successes from 2019 and hope you’re inspired to be a part of the AADAs progress in 2020. Sincerely,

Sabra Sullivan, MD, PhD, FAAD
Chair, Council on Government Affairs and Health Policy

RAISING THE DERMATOLOGY VOICE

2019 Progress Report

“Even in a challenging political landscape, we saw success from every angle and brought the dermatology voice front and center. It wouldn’t be possible without the knowledge and dedication of our members and staff to improve the specialty and provide the best care for patients. In 2019, the AADA was resilient in moving the needle forward, working collaboratively with stakeholders in coalitions and partnerships. I’m proud of what we accomplished and ready to build on that momentum in 2020.”

– Barbara Greene, Chief Advocacy & Policy Officer

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Over 300 AADA members, provided content expertise in 2019 that led to the submission of more than 24 comment letters from the AADA to regulatory agencies and private payers.