26th Annual Joint National Podiatric CAC-PIAC Representatives' Meeting

Herndon, VA | November 13, 2026

Agenda subject to change

7:00–7:45 a.m.	**Breakfast** Registration, Distribution of Materials
7:45–8:00 a.m.	**Introductions and Welcome** *Jodie Sengstock, DPM, Chair, CAC-PIAC Committee*
8:00–8:15 a.m.	**Advocacy in Action: Wins, Progress, and What's Ahead** *Patrick DeHeer, DPM, President, APMA*
8:15–9:00 a.m.	**Getting to Yes: What Works in Payer Advocacy** *Jodie Sengstock, DPM, Chair, CAC-PIAC Committee* *Jeffrey Lehrman, DPM, Advisor, APMA* • Case study of a successful payer advocacy effort • Lessons CAC-PIAC representatives can apply in their states
9:00–9:45 a.m.	**Inside the LCD Process: Strategies for Effective MAC Engagement** *Alicia Blakey, MS, Manager, Economics and Health Policy, American College of Radiology* *Amy Kelbick, Vice President, Federal Advocacy and Strategy, Hart Health Strategies* • Where and when clinicians can influence the LCD process • Lessons from other specialties • What makes clinical evidence effective • Regulatory and legislative strategies for addressing challenges with MAC policies and communication
9:45–10:00 a.m.	Break
10:00–10:45 a.m.	**The Contractor Medical Director Perspective: Provider Engagement and the Medicare Coverage Process** *Gina Mullen, MD, Contractor Medical Director, Wellpoint Federal* • The role of the Contractor Medical Director in Medicare coverage policy • Opportunities for clinician and specialty society engagement

APMA gratefully acknowledges the support of Bako Diagnostics

10:45–11:30 a.m.

Navigating the Changing Payer Landscape: Trends, Roadblocks, and Strategies
Kelli Back, Esq., Law Offices of Kelli D. Back
- Medicare Advantage trends and emerging payer policies
- Prior authorization and gold carding programs
- Navigating peer-to-peer reviews and escalation pathways
- Responding to audits and denials

11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Lunch

Thriving in Podiatry: Stronger Workflows, Better Diagnostics, Proper Coding
Bela Pandit, DPM, Pandit Foot & Ankle Clinic
Sponsored by Bako Diagnostics

12:30–1:15 p.m.

Medicare Part B Trends: What the Data Reveals
David J. Freedman, DPM, CAC Representative for Maryland
- Trends in utilization and claims data

1:15–1:50 p.m.

Medicare Now and Next: Preparing for the 2027 Landscape and Beyond
Cindy Moon, MPH, MPP, Vice President, Health Care Payment and Delivery Reform, Hart Health Strategies
Jeffrey Lehrman, DPM, Advisor, APMA
- Policy outlook for Medicare and related CMS initiatives
- Key developments affecting podiatric physicians
- APMA Medicare advocacy priorities

1:50– 2:10 p.m.

What's New in DME
Paul Kesselman, DPM, Member, Coding and Payment Policy Committee
- What CAC and PIAC reps need to know about DME updates for 2027

2:10–3:20 p.m.

From Information to Action: CAC and PIAC Representative Workshop
Jodie Sengstock, DPM, Chair, CAC Committee
Steven Merckx, DPM, Chair, Coding and Payment Policy Committee
- Translating CAC/PIAC updates into action at the state level
- Identifying issues that warrant state or national advocacy
- Engaging state societies and communicating priorities
- Knowing when and how to elevate an issue to APMA
- Breakout discussion of real-world scenarios and challenges
- Report-out and peer exchange (15 minutes)

3:20–3:30 p.m.

From Discussion to Action: Next Steps and Wrap-Up
Jodie Sengstock, DPM, Chair, CAC-PIAC Committee
- Key takeaways and follow-up
- Meeting adjournment

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