NOSE NEWS

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Ameri<u>can</u>



President's Report

Richard R. Orlandi, MD, FARS

Happy New Year to you all! I hope you all had a relaxing time with family and loved ones this past holiday season. As you can see from the articles in this edition of the Nose News, many of our fellow ARS members continue to be hard at work to serve us and our patients.

Our **Spring Meeting** to be held as part of COSM is right around the corner, April 19-20 at the Gaylord National Resort in National Harbor, Maryland. Our president-elect and program chair, Jim Palmer, MD, FARS is putting together a stellar program featuring the latest advances in our field. The program committee working alongside Dr. Palmer have reviewed a large number of abstract submissions and we appreciate this substantial "behind the scenes" work. Look inside this edition to see more about ARS @ COSM.

Another great educational event provided by our ARS is the **Summer Sinus Symposium**, to be held this year in Seattle on July 12-14. Greg Davis, MD, FARS, Marc Dubin, MD, FARS and Doug Reh, MD, FARS are leading the effort to provide an unparalleled learning experience for all of us who work in the field of rhinology. The work of our **Education Committee**, chaired by Jeremiah Alt, MD, PhD, FARS is also featured in this edition.

Following on the heels of the 2016 International Consensus Statement on Rhinosinusitis, in 2018 we will be fortunate to receive a parallel work from



Don't miss the ARS Summer Sinus Symposium: July 12-14, 2018 in Seattle, Washington! See details on back cover.

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Patient Advocacy Committee Report

Seth Brown, MD, FARS, Chair, ARS Patient Advocacy Committee



In an effort to provide up to date advocacy material to our membership the American Rhinologic Society (ARS) has retained Trisha Crishock as its Health Policy Consultant. Trisha brings a wealth of experience to us in these avenues and has run her own consulting business for the past decade. In addition to her work with our society, she has several other societies outside of the Otolaryngology arena that she regularly represents with these issues. I anticipate that she will be a valuable asset for our society and members. Please feel free to reach out to the ARS for your advocacy or reimbursement issues.

CMS Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) CY2018 Final Rule

On November 2, 2017, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) final rule. The final rule updates the payment policies, payment rates, and quality provisions for services furnished under the MPFS effective January 1, 2018.

The MPFS pays for services furnished by physicians and other practitioners in all sites of service. These services include visits, surgical procedures, diagnostic tests, therapy services, specified preventative services and more. Payments are based on the relative resources typically used to furnish the service. Relative value units (RVUs) are applied to each service for physician work, practice expense, and malpractice. These RVUs become payment rates through the application of a conversion factor, which is updated annually.

Several rhinologic coding issues were addressed in the CY2018 MPFS including nasal sinus endoscopy, inferior turbinate resection, and control of nasal hemorrhage. The coding and payment changes outlined below are effective 01/01/2018 for Medicare.

Nasal Sinus Endoscopy

Several nasal sinus endoscopy services were identified as potentially misvalued because billing patterns revealed they were billed together more than 75% of the time (same beneficiary/same day of service). As such, the specialty societies were required to 'bundle' services together and create new codes that represented the combined services.

When services are bundled, the Agency expects to see significant reductions in wRVUs to account for efficiencies. The specialty societies presented survey data and advocated to establish fair and appropriate wRVUs for this family of nasal sinus endoscopy services.

The specialty societies were successful in reducing those losses in this very aggressive reimbursement environment.

CMS finalized 2018 values for five new nasal sinus endoscopy CPT Codes (31241, 31253, 31257, 31259 and 31298) and ten existing nasal sinus endoscopy CPT Codes. [continued on next page]

Balloon Sinuplasty Codes

	CPT Code	Descriptor	2017 wRVU	2018 wRVU	2018 Global Period
	31295	Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical; with dilation of maxillary sinus ostium (eg, balloon dilation), transnasal or canine fossa	2.70	2.70	000
	31296	Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical; with dilation of frontal sinus ostium (eg, balloon dilation)	3.29	3.10	000
	31297	Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical; with dilation of sphenoid sinus ostium (eg, balloon dilation)	2.64	2.44	000
New/Bundled	31298	Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical; with dilation of frontal and sphenoid sinus ostia (eg, balloon dilation)	*4.61	4.50	000

Functional Endoscopic Sinus Surgery (FESS) Codes

	CPT Code	Descriptor	2017 wRVU	2018 wRVU	2018 Global Period
	31254	Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical with ethmoidectomy: partial (anterior)	4.64	4.27	000
	31255	Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical with ethmoidectomy: total (anterior and posterior)	6.95	5.75	000
New/Bundled	31253	Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical with ethmoidectomy; total (anterior and posterior), including frontal sinus exploration, with removal of tissue from frontal sinus, when performed	*12.30	9.00	000
New/Bundled	31257	Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical with ethmoidectomy; total (anterior and posterior), including spehnoidotomy	*8.90	8.00	000
New/Bundled	31259	Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical with ethmoidectomy; total (anterior and posterior), including sphenoidotomy, with removal of tissue from sphenoid sinus	*9.24	8.48	000
	31256	Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical, with maxillary antrostomy	3.29	3.11	000
	31267	Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical, with maxillary antrostomy; with removal of tissue from maxillary sinus	5.45	4.68	000
	31276	Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical; with frontal sinus exploration, including removal of tissue from frontal sinus, when performed	8.84	6.75	000
	31287	Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical, with sphenoidotomy	3.91	3.50	000
	31288	Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical, with sphenoidotomy; with removal of tissue from the sphenoid sinus	4.57	4.10	000

 $\underline{^*Computed\ using\ 2017\ wRVUs\ and\ the\ standard\ multiple\ procedure\ payment\ reduction}}$ $\underline{methodology}$

New Sphenopalatine Artery Code

CPT Code	Descriptor	2018 wRVU	2018 Global
31241	Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical; with ligation of	8.00	000
New	sphenopalatine artery	8.00	000

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CMS finalized direct practice expense inputs for this family of services as well as including updates to the "sinus surgery balloon (maxillary, frontal, or sphenoid) kit". CMS included 0.5 kits for CPT Codes 31295, 31296 and 31297 and one kit for CPT Code 31298. The specialty societies urged the Agency to develop a standalone HCPCS supply code for the balloon kit, to allow providers flexibility in reporting the quantity of actual kits used. CMS rejected the request.

The specialty societies successfully deterred the Agency from implementing an endobase code adjustment to this family of services. The Agency expressed concern about the frequency with which the nasal sinus endoscopy CPT codes in this family were billed together. Instead CMS finalized their proposal to maintain the standard multiple procedure payment reduction policy for this group of nasal sinus endoscopy services.

Resection Inferior Turbinate (CPT code 30140)

CMS finalized work and direct practice expense inputs for CPT Code 30140 (Submucous resection inferior turbinate, partial or complete, any method), a service that was identified as potentially misvalued on a screen of Harvard-valued codes with utilization over 30,000.

CMS assigned a wRVUs of 3.00 for CY2018. CMS also finalized direct practice expense inputs for CPT Code 30140, which included three new equipment codes based on the invoices submitted for this code family: a 2mm reusable shaver blade (EQ383), a microdebrider handpiece (EQ384) and a microdebrider console (EQ385).

It is important to note that CMS changed the global period from a 090 day global period to a 000 day global period for CPT Code 30140. This change in in global period from 090 to 000 will allow providers to bill for follow-up care performed.

CPT Code	Descriptor	2017 wRVU	2018 wRVU	2017 Global Period	2018 Global Period
30140	Submucous resection inferior turbinate, partial or complete, any method	3.57	3.00	090	000

Control Nasal Hemorrhage (CPT codes 30901, 30903, 30905, and 30906)

CPT Code 30903 (Control nasal hemorrhage, anterior, complex (extensive cautery and/or packing) any method) was identified by the AMA RUC as potentially misvalued. CPT Codes 30903, 30905 and 30906 were identified as part of the family. ARS worked with AAO-HNS to conduct surveys and make recommendations to the RUC for this family of nasal hemorrhage codes. The specialty societies successfully presented evidence/data to maintain the existing values for these services. CMS finalized the following CY2018 values:

CPT Code	Descriptor	2017 wRVU	2018 wRVU	2018 Global Period
30901	Control of epistaxis, anterior, simple	1.10	1.10	000
30903	Control of epistaxis, anterior, complex	1.54	1.54	000
30905	Control of epistaxis, posterior, initial	1.97	1.97	000
30906	Control of epistaxis, posterior, subsequent	2.45	2.45	000

ARS is working with stakeholders to provide the ARS membership with clinical coding guidance for the updated nasal sinus endoscopy family of services.

For additional information about the ARS PAC or any information included in this article please contact Dr. Seth Brown, Chair of the PAC, through the ARS office at wendi@amrhso.com.



Preview of the ARS Spring Meeting at COSM

James N. Palmer, MD, FARS, President Elect and Program Chair

The American Rhinologic Society Spring Meeting at COSM takes place April 19 and 20, 2018, and will be held at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, National Harbor Maryland, minutes from Washington, DC. The meeting will feature impressive

scientific and clinical content as over 200 abstracts were submitted for the program committee to review, making it a tough task to choose the best ones for the meeting. Our thanks go out to the committee members for their hard work that resulted in such a quality program.

The core of the meeting will be selected podium presentations that will report on a wide range of topics, including clinical and basic science investigations into the pathophysiology of chronic rhinosinusitis (CRS), olfaction research, the role of microbes in CRS, and newer and emerging treatments for CRS. New information on skull base conditions will be shared and additional groups of papers will re-examine common practices in rhinology. These presentations will be complemented by over 100 posters covering every possible aspect of rhinology, as well as a poster session to review the work of our poster presenters.

A special highlight is that Andrew Lane, MD, FARS will lead us through a discussion of his National Institutes of Health sponsored research and how it fits into the overall rhinology research landscape. Panels at the meeting will address a wide range of topics, from fresh looks at compelling recent research advances to lessons learned by leaders in our field. We also plan to review new initiatives in our field, including a discussion led by David Poetker, MD, FARS on the organization of Rhinology Fellowships. We hope to see you in DC for a great meeting!

President's Report, cont'd.

another worldwide collaborative. Inside this edition, Sarah Wise, MD, FARS tells us about the *International Consensus Statement on Allergy and Rhinology:*Allergic Rhinitis. I have had the honor of working with Dr. Wise and her colleagues on this incredible manuscript and I trust we will all find this work to be a great benefit to our understanding of this condition. With scores of authors and literally thousands of references, it will be the "go to" source for all things allergic rhinitis for years to come.

Finally, a word about **health care policy.** The ARS continues to advance its work in this field in order to advocate for our patients and to keep our members abreast of the latest developments. Within this edition you'll find details of our efforts, with specific attention to details on the new sinus surgery codes that are just now taking effect. I strongly encourage you to take a close look and remind us to use the ARS's DocMatter platform to engage in discussion on this and other topics.

It is an honor to serve with so many capable and dedicated volunteers that make up your ARS!

Richard R. Orlandi, MD, FARS



ICAR Update Sarah K. Wise, MD, MSCR, FARS

The 2016 International Consensus Statement on Allergy and Rhinology: Rhinosinusitis (ICAR:RS) document led by Richard Orlandi

has seen immense success. Building on this success, for the last 18 months the ICAR: Allergic Rhinitis project has been underway. Spearheaded by Sandra Lin, Elina Toskala, and myself, this document examines the vast allergic rhinitis literature, distilling it down to individual manageable topics. ICAR: Allergic Rhinitis provides aggregate grades of the evidence, presents this evidence in manageable tables, and offers structured literature summaries with recommendations. With 107 authors contributing, and over 2000 references, this document aims to be a comprehensive resource for practitioners, researchers, and academicians involved in the clinical care or study of allergic rhinitis.

Broadly, the ICAR: Allergic Rhinitis project examined the definition and differential diagnosis of allergic rhinitis, pathophysiology and mechanisms, risk factors for allergic rhinitis, epidemiology and disease burden, evaluation and diagnostic modalities, management (including avoidance measures, pharmacotherapy, and allergen immunotherapy), as well as other conditions associated with allergic rhinitis. The ICAR process involves a systematic review of the literature, initial authorship of each topic, an iterative review process, and multiple stages at which consensus must be reached amongst the authors. This process provides a series of checks and balances for the text, evidence grades, literature tables, and recommendations. In examining the allergic rhinitis literature, we become keenly aware of knowledge gaps and research opportunities, and the ICAR: Allergic Rhinitis document highlights these as well. We are very proud of the work that the authors put forth in developing this document.

The ICAR: Allergic Rhinitis document is planned for publication in the International Forum of Allergy and Rhinology (IFAR) in 2018. Receipt of the IFAR journal is one of

the greatest benefits of American Rhinologic Society membership. The availability of the ICAR documents (including ICAR: Skull Base, currently in development and led by Eric Wang) is a great reason to read IFAR, but it is certainly not the only reason. The extraordinary success of the Evidence Based Reviews with Recommendations, which follow a structured literature review and recommendation development process outlined by Luke Rudmik and Tim Smith, is another reason to read IFAR, along with publication of high level clinical, translational, and basic science research in rhinology and allergy. IFAR truly is a fantastic resource!

We look forward to seeing ICAR: Allergic Rhinitis in print and being used as a resource for allergic rhinitis treatment and research around the world. This was a massive undertaking. We are extremely thankful to those who contributed, and we couldn't be more excited for it to be available to the IFAR readers!



2018 Save the Date



COSM 2018

April 19-20, 2018 Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center National Harbor, Maryland

http://www.american-rhinologic.org/spring_meeting





Find membership & meeting details online at: american-rhinologic.org



Education Committee Update

Jeremiah A. Alt MD, PhD, FARS

The members of the American Rhinologic Society (ARS) Education Committee have been hard at work creating a

complete and extensive body of rhinologic educational materials to better serve our members as well as our patients.

All of the educational content is currently accessible on the ARS website (http://www.american-rhinologic.org). It is divided between the Members and Professionals site and the Patients and Caregivers site.

On the Patients and Caregivers website we currently have informational writeups on over forty rhinologic topics. These range from anatomy to rhinologic conditions and treatment options, with content covering sinusitis, cerebrospinal fluid leak, tumors, and much more. This content was completely updated in 2015 and is currently going through another comprehensive update that will be completed in 2018. Although this is found on the patient website, it is also an excellent resource for medical students, residents and even practicing Otolaryngologists, Members can utilize this resource for themselves or direct their patients to it for further education, feeling confident in the information provided.

On the Members and Professionals site, there is an expansive array of offerings from narrated surgical videos to powerpoint slides summarizing the International Consensus on Allergy and Rhinology: Rhinosinusitis (ICAR: Rhinosinusitis).

Stored on our website is a link to the ARS Virtual Rhinology webcast series, a live international online broadcast featuring panels of experts discussing the practical applications of cutting edge research. This webcast allows viewers to log-in, listen, and actively participate by writing in questions for the moderators and panelists in real time. The third ARS Virtual Rhinology webcast is scheduled for March 3, with Drs. Sarah Wise and Timothy Smith co-directing the event. This year's theme will be *Rhinology in Practice – Treating CRS in 2018*. We anticipate it will make for an excellent and lively broadcast!

The ARS Surgical Video Library continues to grow with additional videos being

edited and uploaded regularly. The Library consists of more than twenty surgical dissections with narration ranging from septoplasty to inflammatory sinus surgery to complex sinonasal tumor resections.

We now have 36 ARS webinars stored on the website for access and viewing at any time. These are 40-50 minute didactic lectures or panel discussions on a wide range of rhinologic topics followed by a ten-minute question and answer session. These have been recorded from a live webcast that goes out to all US residency programs throughout the year. The program will continue with additional topics and faculty throughout 2018.

Lastly, we are proud to be planning our

third ARS Resident Course that will take place during the Fall Meeting of 2018. The course will include a didactic session, cadaver dissection, and a reception for the 40 course registrants with the ARS leadership. We expect this year's course to be a huge success! Thanks to the support of our industry sponsors and the time and dedication of an excellent faculty roster, resident feedback has been very positive and enthusiastic thus far.

I would like to give a heartfelt thanks to the members of my committee and the others in ARS leadership who have supported our many endeavors. Please stay tuned as we continue to produce even more exceptional educational materials over the course of this year.



Virtual Rhinology III

Rhinology in Practice - Treating CRS in 2018 March 3, 2018

2:00pm - 5:00pm EST

Watch from the comfort of your home or office!

Register: https://www.american-rhinologic.org/2018_virtual_rhinology



Timothy L. Smith, MD, FARS



Jeremiah Alt, MD, FARS



Sarah K. Wise, MD, FARS

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE THIRD ANNUAL ARS GLOBAL WEBCAST CONFERENCE!

Virtual Rhinology III: Rhinology in Practice - Treating CRS in 2018 March 3, 2018 2:00pm - 5:00pm EST

Free registration, attendees will be able to watch, listen and interact from their personal computers anywhere in the world!

For General Otolaryngologists with an interest in rhinology, Rhinologists, and residents and fellows in training.

Additional details coming soon.





Friends in Research Campaign

We want to express our sincere thanks for the generous donations to the **2017 ARS Friends in Research Campaign**. We again launch our quest to raise money for research with the 2017 ARS Friends in Research Campaign. With your support, we can continue to fund the studies that provide clinical insights valuable to the care of our patients.

In the past, these efforts have helped to establish the ARS and its members as the leaders in rhinologic research. This work not only advances the care of our patients through scientific innovation, but also generates important data establishing the efficacy and cost effectiveness of our care.

In the current financial landscape, this is equally important to ensure that our patients have access to the treatment necessary to address their complaints.

If you are interested in donating to the ARS, please visit https://www.american-rhinologic.org/DonationForm.cfm. We thank you again for your help in this worthy endeavor.

2017 Friends in Research Fund Supporters

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ARS Corporate Partners Group

The American Rhinologic Society would like to express our deepest thanks and appreciation to the participants of our Corporate Partners Program. Our corporate partnerships have been invaluable in their support of ARS initiatives to promote excellence in rhinology and skull base surgery. Through our ongoing collaborative relationships, we hope to continue to mutually develop exciting and lasting opportunities for our members to enhance education, investigation, clinical care, and patient advocacy in the future.



The American Rhinologic Society would like to thank our 2017 Corporate Partners Group for their support:

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Benefits of ARS Membership

Membership in the American Rhinologic Society provides critical support that strengthens its ability to speak out on behalf of you, and all those practicing rhinology. The ARS promotes excellence in clinical care, investigation and education in Rhinology.

The ARS is dedicated to providing communication and fellowship to its members through ongoing continuing medical education, economic and social programs.

Your membership in the ARS places you in a highly respected professional organization that has a significant and far-reaching impact on the subspecialty of Rhinology. The ARS is dedicated to promoting excellence in clinical care, investigation, education, and patient advocacy in the field of rhinology.

Membership benefits include:

- Free registration to the best sinus course in the world, The Summer Sinus Symposium
- Complimentary subscription to the Society's prestigious peer-reviewed journal, International Forum of Allergy and Rhinology
- Opportunity to join leadership and participate in standing committees of the Society to develop and implement programs to advance the interests of the specialty
- · Networking in the largest group of Rhinologists worldwide
- Discounted meeting registration for the Society's annual meeting
- Information and opportunities for action on legislative and regulatory issues affecting rhinology and sinus surgery
- Member listing on the ARS Membership Directory
- Online services and personal web page on the ARS network,
- "Find a Specialist" listing on the ARS web page making you contact information available to patients and referring physicians

- Access to members only section of webpage which includes advocacy, coding strategies, position statements, education and research and much more
- · Patient Education Handouts
- · Patient and Caregivers section of website
- · Webinars and how to videos for members only
- ARS Endoscopic Surgical Dissection Video Series
- Complimentary subscription the Society's newsletter, Nose News
- Discounted rates for educational products and services offered by the Society
- Early access to third-party symposia associated with ARS meetings
- Discounted services and early access to other services and products provided by the Society
- Advocacy and representation on issues that influence the field of rhinology including those that establish physician reimbursement

JOIN AT: https://www.american-rhinologic.org/NewMember.cfm

Fellow of the American Rhinologic Society (FARS)

Stacey Tutt Gray, MD, FARS



For this issue of Nose News, we would like to encourage all members to explore the possibility of becoming a Fellow of the American Rhinologic Society (FARS). This special membership category is an exceptional way to show your expertise in the field of Rhinology, your dedication to rhinologic practice, and your support of the American Rhinologic Society. Please visit the website, http://www.american-rhinologic.org/fars to learn more about the application process and the necessary qualifications. We encourage every ARS member to investigate this option and apply if they are interested. Current ARS members seeking FARS designation can submit a letter of intent, an updated curriculum vitae, a rhinologic case log and sponsorship letters from two FARS members to membership@amrhso.org. Currently there are over 200 FARS members in our society, and we would like our entire membership to be aware of this special distinction. Please inquire about this membership category, especially if you are interested in becoming more involved in the ARS. We look forward to your application!

Forgot to pay your dues? Renew now! Call 973-545-2735, x5 or renew online at https://www.american-rhinologic.org/NewMember.cfm

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Summer Sinus Symposium Update

Greg Davis, MD, FARS; Marc Dubin, MD, FARS; Douglas Reh, MD, FARS

In July 2018, we are moving the incredibly successful American Rhinologic Society (ARS) Summer Sinus program to beautiful Seattle, WA. This offers an exciting new city for participants to explore, and an unforgettable signature event at Chihuly Garden and Glass Museum.

The program will change the format with CME panels starting on Thursday afternoon. Panels on successful techniques in primary endoscopic sinus surgery, frontal sinus surgery and revision sinus surgery will be moderated by ARS leaders Drs. Tim Smith, Alex Chiu and Brent Senior. The cocktail reception at the Chihuly Garden and Glass Museum will follow Thursday's panels. Friday's session will start with a sponsored breakfast in the main hall. This session will include discussion of officebased procedures followed by panels on techniques for the management of the challenging nasal patient. Dr. Jim Palmer will perform a prosection moderated by Dr. John DelGaudio to demonstrate successful technical pearls in office and operating

room procedures. Friday afternoon will provide participants time to explore the city of Seattle with their family or participate in the numerous scheduled corporate non-CME events including several cadaver dissection labs.

On Saturday, the course will provide a full day of panels and educational opportunities. The morning sessions will include panels moderated by Dr. Stacey Gray on adjunctive treatment strategies for the persistently infected sinus despite adequate sinus surgery. Dr. Pete Manes will lead a discussion on coding controversies in sinus surgery and review important changes in coding and reimbursement. Dr. Rick Chandra will then moderate a prosection by Dr. Adam Zanation which will cover advanced surgical techniques in endoscopic orbital and skull base surgery. Saturday afternoon will feature breakout rooms with over a dozen panels to allow attendees flexibility to choose their own program.

Throughout the course, the exhibit hall will showcase the newest technology available to treat patients both in the operating room and in the office. There will also be many sessions highlighting new advances in allergy evaluation and management.

The main goal of the Summer Sinus Symposium is to provide high yield, state of the art, educational opportunities for ALL providers of sinonasal patient care. Improving patient care, whether in the office, surgery center, or the operating room is our number one priority! We will explore all key areas from minimally invasive techniques under local anesthesia to revision complex cases! Come to Seattle this July and experience one of the Pacific Northwest's most beautiful cities and gateway to the Pacific and Alaska.

We thank in advance the roughly 130 faculty members who have committed their time and look forward to seeing everyone in Seattle in July!





PO Box 269, Oak Ridge, NJ 07438

Registration & Housing Opens March 1, 2018!

