



NCCAOM Advocacy Update - November 2021

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Advocacy News

Support for H.R. 4803

The NCCAOM continues work with American Society for Acupuncturists (ASA) to engage acupuncturists on [H.R. 4803, the Acupuncture for Our Seniors Act](#). H.R. 4803 would authorize Medicare to recognize qualified acupuncturists as Medicare providers.

Since its introduction in late July, the NCCAOM has worked with the ASA to help increase awareness of, and support for, H.R. 4803:

- Released a Press Release about the bill, a Fact Sheet (English and Chinese), and created an Advocacy Toolkit for meetings with members of the U.S. House of Representatives.
- Published an article in *Acupuncture Today* that provides an overview of H.R. 4803.
- Hosted two town halls to provide an overview of H.R. 4803 and guidance on ways individuals can get involved as advocates:
 - September 30: General Acupuncturist Profession
 - October 14: AT CMA
- Launched a grassroots platform to help connect acupuncturists with Congressional Representatives.
- Launched a free, weekly, small-group Grassroots Advocacy Training Series to provide education and guidance on effective advocacy and the individual acupuncturist's role in advocating for H.R. 4803.



The NCCAOM is working with the ASA to equip the profession with the resources to advance H.R. 4803. Look for more information on the many different ways you can get involved in the NCCAOM/ASA's grassroots efforts.

Medicare-Recognition Background

Obtaining provider status under Medicare would enable acupuncturists to directly bill Medicare for the covered services that they provide to Medicare beneficiaries (generally those 65 and older). This recognition is critical to advancing the acupuncturist profession as it would grant more individuals access to qualified acupuncturists—and more qualified acupuncturists access to more populations. Medicare recognition would also help the profession collect and generate data on the acupuncture benefits, particularly with regard to quality and cost.

As many of you know, CMS covers acupuncture services for chronic lower back pain (CLBP); but, does not recognize acupuncturists as providers. This lack of recognition prevents a significant number of the profession from readily providing cLBP services to Medicare beneficiaries. The resulting barrier prevents those with the most expertise and training in acupuncture from providing these services.

The NCCAOM and ASA continue to maintain a series of resources to help educate the profession on Medicare recognition and the [steps required for Medicare provider status](#). Read more about how Medicare provider status would affect the profession by visiting the [NCCAOM's Advocacy Page](#).

Stay tuned for more updates on next steps for obtaining Medicare recognition. Contact the NCCAOM Advocacy team with any Medicare-related questions at advocacy@thenccaom.org.

PCORI National Priorities for Health Research

In August 2021, the NCCAOM worked with the ASA to [respond to the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute's \(PCORI\) proposed 2022-2032](#) priorities for health research. The response emphasized the importance of more acupuncture-led research. PCORI will release a draft of its research agenda for public comment in December 2021.

PCORI Background

To help provide more evidence-based information pertinent to patients and families, the U.S. Congress established PCORI in 2010 to help generate patient-centered data. PCORI is an independent nonprofit, nongovernmental organization in Washington, D.C. and seeks to identify and close research gaps.



Read more about the NCCAOM's advocacy efforts at the [NCCAOM Advocacy Page](#). Please contact the [NCCAOM Advocacy team](#) with any questions regarding the NCCAOM's Advocacy efforts and ways to get involved.