

Response to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services CY 2026 Physician Fee Schedule and Other Changes to Part B Payment and Coverage Policies Proposed Rule

Committee

Kevin Grumbach

Chair

KEVIN GRUMBACH, MD, is Professor of Family and Community Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. He served as Chair of the UCSF Department of Family and Community Medicine from 2003-2022. He is a Founding Director of the UCSF Center for Excellence in Primary Care and Director of the Community Engagement Program for the UCSF Clinical and Translational Science Institute. His research and scholarship on the primary care workforce, innovations in primary care, racial and ethnic diversity in the health professions, and community health improvement and health equity have widely influenced policy and practice. Dr. Grumbach is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians and California Academy of Family Physicians, and co-chairs the California Academy of Family Physicians Task Force on Primary Care for All to develop policy positions on primary care coverage, investment, and payment. He is also a member of Physicians for a National Health Program. He is a gubernatorial appointee to the California Health Workforce Education and Training Council and a technical expert for the California Office of Health Care Affordability Payment and Investment Workgroup, both of which are uncompensated positions. With Tom Bodenheimer, he co-authored the best-selling textbook on health policy, *Understanding Health Policy - A Clinical Approach*, now in its 8th edition, published by McGraw Hill. He received a Generalist Physician Faculty Scholar award from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Health Resources and Services Administration Award for Health Workforce Research on Diversity, the Richard E. Cone Award for Excellence and Leadership in Cultivating Community Partnerships in Higher Education, and the UCSF Chancellor's Public Service Award.

Dr. Grumbach has been an advisor to Congressional Committees and government agencies on primary care and health reform and a member of the National Advisory Council for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and currently serves on the California Health Workforce Education and Training Council. He cares for patients at the family medicine practices at San Francisco General Hospital and UCSF Health. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine.

Andrea Anderson

Member

ANDREA ANDERSON, MD, M.Ed., FAAFP is a family physician and an associate professor at the George Washington School of Medicine and Health Sciences. She is the immediate past chair of the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM), a board member of the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), chair of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Management Committee, a past senior medical education consultant for the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), and a former member of the National Advisory Council of the National Health Service Corps and National Health Service Corps Scholar. At GW, she serves in several roles including as the Associate Chief of the Division of Family Medicine, the chair of the clinical curriculum sub-committee, Director of the Scholarly Concentration in Health Policy, and course director of the required Transitions to Residency internship readiness capstone course. Throughout her career, Dr. Anderson has been active in DC health policy and medical regulation as well as teaching primary care, ethics, professionalism, and physician advocacy to medical students and residents. She is the Chair of the DC Board of Medicine, licensing and determining regulatory policy for the over 15,000 DC physicians and other licensees. She is a subject matter expert for national advisory committees of the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME), namely the Patient Characteristics Advisory Panel and the Legal/Ethical Task Force. She has served on multiple national advisory committees for the FSMB including chairing the 2024 Workgroup on the Regulation of Physicians in Training and the National Ethics and Professionalism Committee which creates model practice national guidelines for state medical licensing boards. Dr. Anderson is the recipient of the 2022 GW Distinguished Service Award, the 2021 National Exemplary Teaching Award from the American Academy of Family Physicians, the 2019 Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM) Advocate Award, the 2016 Brown School of Medicine Young Alumnae Achievement award, and the 1997 National Health Service Corps Scholarship. She is a current fellow of the Hedwig Van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) program, 2023 graduate of the International Leadership Excellence in Educating for Professionalism (LEEP) Faculty Scholars Program from the Academy for Professionalism in Health Care, a 2018 graduate of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Emerging Leaders Program, and a 2017 graduate of the GW Master Teacher Leadership Development Fellowship. Dr. Anderson is an alumna of the Program in Liberal Medical Education (PLME) at Brown University and Brown University School of Medicine. She completed a Master's degree of Education at the GW School of Education and Human Development. She completed her Family Medicine residency and Academic Medicine fellowship at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center where she served as the Chief Resident. Following this, she spent 15 years in clinical practice at the Upper Cardozo Health Center, a multi-lingual Federally Qualified Health Center in Washington, DC.

Beth Bortz

Member

BETH BORTZ, MPP is the founding President and CEO of the Virginia Center for Health Innovation, a nonprofit, public-private partnership established to accelerate value-driven health care. Ms. Bortz has secured \$25M+ in funds for innovation initiatives, including grants from Arnold Ventures, CMMI, AHRQ, the Virginia Department of Health, and the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services. She has served as the implementation lead for the Virginia Task Force on Primary Care, Smarter Care Virginia, Virginia Vaccinates, the State Innovation Model Design grant, and Virginia's EvidenceNow grant. She is a public member of the American Board of Medical Specialties and a registered lobbyist in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Previously, she served as Executive Director of the Medical Society of Virginia Foundation, Deputy Director of the Virginia Health Care Foundation, and Senior Associate Legislative Analyst for the Virginia General Assembly. In addition to serving on the National Task Force to Reduce Low Value Healthcare, and the boards of Rx Partnership, LEAD Virginia, Virginia Health Information, and the American Board of Family Medicine, she has received the Virginia Leader Award from LEAD Virginia; Influential Women of Virginia Award from Virginia Lawyer's Media; and the Medallion Award for Community Partnership from Mutual of America. She earned her undergraduate degree in Economics and Government and her Master's in Public Policy from the College of William and Mary.

Karen L. Fortuna

Member

KAREN L. FORTUNA, PhD, MSW, is an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth and Co-Founder of the Collaborative Design for Recovery and Health. As an international collaborative of patients, community health workers, peer support specialists, caregivers, policymakers and payer systems, the Collaborative uses community-based participatory research to facilitate the development, evaluation, and implementation of digital tools that leverage mobile health to address needs identified by community members from vulnerable populations at the intersection of race and disability status, including but not limited to, older adults with multiple chronic health conditions and people with disabilities, rare diseases, and psychiatric disorders. Her work spans many settings from primary care to community-based care. Dr. Fortuna has received funding from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), National Institute of Mental Health, American Federation of Aging, Brain and Behavior Foundation, Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development, and the New York Academy of Sciences. Overall, she has been responsible for conducting or collaborating on more than 30 research projects including topics such as health disparities, self-management, patient engagement in digital technologies, participatory human-centered design, and has pioneered a new field of study “digital peer support”. She is the 2022-2023 Chair of the Patient Engagement National Advisory Council to PCORI.

Dr. Fortuna is an invited member to the American Psychological Association’s Mental Health Technology Advisory Committee, American Psychiatric Association’s Smartphone App Advisory Panel, Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts Advisory Panel, and Ludwig Boltzmann Gesellschaft Research Group Die Offene Tür’s Open Innovation international advisory panel. Dr. Fortuna was the recipient of the Japanese Agency for Medical Research and Development Research Proposal of the year, Ally of the Year Award from the Western Mass Peer Network, Alvin R. Tarlov & John E. Ware Jr. Award in Patient Reported Outcomes, and the Faculty Achievement Award from the National Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work. She serves as a scientific advisor for Emissary Health (a digital platform for respite care) and Skyview (a lamp designed to promote wellness).

Lauren S. Hughes

Member

LAUREN S. HUGHES, MD, MPH, MSc, MHCDS, FAAFP is a family physician working as the State Policy Director of the Farley Health Policy Center and an Associate Professor of Family Medicine at the University of Colorado. In these roles, she leads efforts to generate and translate evidence to inform the design and implementation of evidence-based health policy at the state, national, and federal levels. She participates in the Primary Care Centers Roundtable, a volunteer collective of all of the primary care research and policy centers in the United States. Her research interests include improving rural health care delivery; strengthening primary care infrastructure; and advancing behavioral health integration. She cares for patients at a rural federally qualified health center (FQHC) north of Denver. Dr. Hughes previously served as Deputy Secretary for Health Innovation in the Pennsylvania Department of Health. In this role, she collaborated with the CMS Innovation Center (CMMI) to co-design and launch the Pennsylvania Rural Health Model, a new payment and delivery model that transitions rural hospitals from fee-for-service to multi-payer global budgets and transforms how they deliver care to better meet community health needs. She also oversaw the creation of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program for the Commonwealth and led the Department to full accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board.

In 2018, Dr. Hughes was selected by Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush as a Presidential Leadership Scholar. From 2022 – 23, she served as chair of the American Board of Family Medicine Board of Directors. She also serves on the boards of directors of the Rural Health Redesign Center Organization and the American Medical Student Association Foundation. She is a member of the Primary Care Payment Reform Collaborative through the Colorado Division of Insurance and the Stakeholder Advisory Group for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality National Center for Excellence in Primary Care Research. Dr. Hughes is a former Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar at the University of Michigan, where she earned an MSc in health services research. She also holds a medical degree from the University of Iowa, an MPH in health policy from The George Washington University, and a master's in health care delivery science from Dartmouth College and completed residency at the University of Washington. Since 2021, Dr. Hughes has been a member of the National Academies Board on Health Care Services.

Alex H. Krist

Member

ALEX H. KRIST, MD, MPH is a professor of family medicine and population health at Virginia Commonwealth University and an active clinician and teacher at the Fairfax Family Practice Residency. He is the director of the Virginia Ambulatory Care Outcomes Research Network, director of community-engaged research at the Center for Clinical and Translational Research and is past chairperson for the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. Dr. Krist's areas of interest include implementation of preventive recommendations, patient-centered care, shared decision making, cancer screening, and health information technology. He is the primary author of numerous peer-reviewed publications and has presented to a wide range of audiences at national and international conferences. Dr. Krist completed his doctor of medicine at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. Dr. Krist was elected to NAM in 2018, was a member of the committee that produced *Implementing High-Quality Primary Care: Rebuilding the Foundation of Health Care*, and was co-chair of the committee that produced *Achieving Whole Health: A New Approach for Veterans and the Nation*.