

Instructions – Copy the following letter and mail or fax to Senator Brown’s office. Use your center’s letterhead if possible. To email the letter, follow the link below and copy and paste the letter into the form on the Senator’s web site

Address

U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown
713 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Fax (202) 228-6321

Email - www.brown.senate.gov/contact

Subject: Tell CMS to Withdraw NQF 1536

Dear Senator Brown,

I am writing today as a constituent and a member of the Ohio Association of Ambulatory Surgery Centers to ask for your support in telling the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to withdraw NQF 1536, from the final 2014 ASC payment rule.

NQF 1536 is a patient-reported outcome measure taken singularly from a measure group designed for registry-only reporting by physicians; it was never intended to serve as a measure of facility-level quality and has not been tested for facility reporting. The most basic foundation of quality reporting in the ASC is that facility-level measures should relate to an episode of care that occurs within the confines of the ASC, encompass data that is available within the ASC medical record and be collectable by ASC staff.

CMS should collaborate with the ophthalmology and ASC communities in developing and adopting meaningful and appropriate ophthalmic ASC quality measures. The AAO, ASCRS, ASRS, and OOSS have identified two measure topics that embody the potential to meet these criteria:

Wrong intraocular lens implant: Number of cataract cases performed where the patient received the incorrect intraocular lens implant.

Unplanned vitrectomies vitrectomy rate: Number of cataract cases performed (where an unplanned vitrectomy is required to be performed) that generate conclusions which are actionable by the facility.

NQF 1536 meets none of these criteria.

I share CMS’ goals of promoting maximum participation of facilities in the program, achieving our mutual priorities of enhancing outcomes, quality, patient health and safety, and patient satisfaction. None of these objectives would be enhanced by requiring ASCs to report on NQF 1536 and I ask that Senator Brown urge CMS that it be withdrawn prior to the April 1, 2014 reporting date and be replaced with appropriate measures.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Name

Position

Center

Address

City, State Zip