

Advanced Imaging  
Allergy, Asthma & Immunology  
Anesthesiology  
Behavioral Health  
Cancer/Oncology  
Cosmetic Surgery  
Critical Care  
Dermatology  
Diabetes/  
Endocrinology  
Ear, Nose & Throat  
Facial Rejuvenation  
Family Medicine  
Gastrointestinal & Liver Disease Center  
Geriatric Care  
Gynecology  
Hand Center  
Head & Neck Surgery  
Hearing Aid Center  
Heart & Vascular Center  
Hematology  
Infectious Disease  
Internal Medicine  
Laboratory Services  
Mohs, Laser & Skin Surgery  
Nephrology  
Neurology  
Obstetrics  
Occupational Medicine  
Ophthalmology  
Orthopedics  
Outpatient Surgery Centers  
Pediatric/Adolescent Care  
Pharmacy Services  
Physical Medicine & Rehab  
Physical Therapy  
Podiatry  
Pulmonary & Sleep Medicine  
Rheumatology & Arthritis  
Sleep Center  
Spine Center  
Sports Medicine  
Surgical Specialties  
Urology  
Vision Centers  
Walk-In Clinics  
Women's Wellness

November 10, 2011

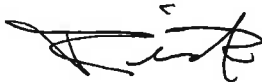
Dear Senator Murray & Senator Cantwell:

On behalf of The Everett Clinic and the hundreds of thousands of patients we see annually, I am writing to urge your opposition to the Promoting Integrity in Medicare Act (PIMA) of 2011. While all of us have a vested interest in ensuring the highest of ethical standards in provider conduct, protecting beneficiaries and taxpayers alike, this legislation is simply a transparent attempt to channel resources with the net result negatively impacting some of the nation's most well-respected healthcare institutions in the process.

Some of the iterations of this legislation have attempted to carve out multi-specialty groups, but in our opinion is that they have failed. Imaging is a vital component of the diagnostic and treatment regimes utilized in these facilities, and curbing the use in this one-sided manner would have a chilling impact on the care delivery system in much of the country. If this proposal were enacted, patients would be forced to receive these tests outside their current care delivery system – including The Everett Clinic, losing the advantages inherent in a medical group: use of a uniform medical record contained in an EMR system; care management protocols incorporating evidence-based medicine; receiving care from a team of providers that can 'talk' to each other. In short, this legislation would negatively impact the ability of these high quality providers to coordinate and manage the care of their patients. These are basic and essential tools we use on a daily basis, and for Congress to pick one specialty over another specialty simply based on site-of-service, and not on patient care, outcomes or cost sets a dangerous precedent.

We understand and appreciate the many pressures that this Congress is under to try and curb wasteful federal spending – both mandatory and discretionary – but we would hope that legislation such as this would not meet your test. As always, we stand ready to work with you on this and the other issues before this Congress.

Sincerely,



Rick Cooper  
Chief Executive Officer