

For Immediate Release

### **MedPAC Recommendation Would Jeopardize Patient Access, Resident Training**

**Washington, D.C., January 12, 2012**— AAMC (*Association of American Medical Colleges*) President and CEO Darrell G. Kirch, M.D., issued the following statement today after the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) approved a recommendation to Congress that would reduce Medicare payments for hospital outpatient services to the same level as payments to physician offices:

“The MedPAC recommendation disproportionately impacts the nation’s major teaching hospitals and will create unintended consequences for both patients and resident education. Teaching hospital outpatient departments that depend on this support provide essential, coordinated care for patients with complex medical needs in settings such as pain centers and cancer clinics. These patients often cannot find care elsewhere in the community. In addition, these sites are valuable settings for resident education.

We urge Congress not to make changes to these Medicare payment policies because they will impede access to care in outpatient clinics and affect training opportunities for residents and other health care professionals.”

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The Association of American Medical Colleges is a not-for-profit association representing all 136 accredited U.S. and 17 accredited Canadian medical schools; nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, including 62 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and nearly 90 academic and scientific societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC represents 128,000 faculty members, 75,000 medical students, and 110,000 resident physicians. Additional information about the AAMC and U.S. medical schools and teaching hospitals is available at [www.aamc.org/newsroom](http://www.aamc.org/newsroom).