



September 25, 2003

Mr. Thomas A. Scully
Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
314-G Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

HAND DELIVERED WITH ATTACHMENT

Dear Mr. Scully:

As President and CEO of the American Medical Group Association, it is my pleasure to endorse the nomination of Anthony Senagore, M.D., for the Department of Health and Human Services' Practicing Physicians Advisory Council (PPAC). Dr. Senagore is a prominent medical leader at The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, an AMGA member organization, and holds significant advisory positions with local and national medical groups, while continuing to publish extensively. Director of Medical Operations for the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Dr. Senagore's commitment to the improvement of medical practice, and his awareness of the regulatory environment in which physicians practice, is evident in his impressive record, his expertise and ability.

While Dr. Senagore's contributions are too numerous to list here, I would like to highlight his valuable national contributions in key advisory positions with medical specialty organizations as CPT and RUC advisor for the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, and PEAC advisor for the American College of Surgeons – to list just a few. His extensive involvement in these activities illustrates his strong qualifications for membership on this advisory committee.

At the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, he serves on the regulatory compliance committee and as an instructor on proper documentation of diagnosis and treatment in the medical record. In those capacities, he has developed and implemented a noteworthy, effective program to instruct physicians on correct documentation and coding, denial review to assure accurate code selection, and precise use of unlisted codes as necessary.

Additionally, Dr. Senagore's business acumen has proved particularly advantageous to the conduct of CCF medical operations, where he provides constructive, enlightened analyses of practice expense, resource management and cost control.

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Also of import to his nomination to PPAC is Dr. Senagore's experience in various styles and sized practices. Amplifying his clinical operations' and practice expense insight, his practice experience includes a 6-member single specialty practice, a 100-member multispecialty practice, and now a 1200-member academic multispecialty group.

Aware of PPAC's mission and challenges, I am confident that Dr. Anthony Senagore's considerable expertise and ability would provide a valuable contribution to the Council's deliberations.

One can only be impressed with his distinguished record of accomplishments and contributions to the advancement of practice issues. Thank you for considering my nomination of this remarkable physician.

Sincerely,



Donald W. Fisher, Ph.D.
President and CEO

Enclosure