

## Healthcare Economics Committee

The [Healthcare Economics Committee \(HEC\)](#) is a large almost 50 member committee responsible for presenting information to ASCRS members on economic issues affecting colon and rectal surgeons. Congress and federal agencies are monitored and enable the committee to inform ASCRS members regarding changes in regulatory legislation, developments in managed care and issues that impact coding, billing, and reimbursement for colorectal services.

### Activities of the HEC:

- Active participation in important committees of the AMA including the House of Delegates (HOD), (<https://www.ama-assn.org/house-delegates>) the Relative Value Update Committee (RUC) (<https://www.ama-assn.org/about/rvs-update-committee-ruc>) and the Current Procedure Terminology (CPT) Committee. (<https://www.ama-assn.org/about/cpt-editorial-panel>) (<https://www.ama-assn.org/about/cpt-editorial-panel/cpt-code-process>)
  - Through participation with the AMA, ASCRS is able to contribute on a national level allowing for advocacy to promote improvements in Colorectal practice.
  - Advisors/Delegates for each AMA committee are now members of the HEC during their terms.
  - AMA committee representatives provide updates to the HEC Committee as they are available (most meetings occur 3 times a year)
  - The HEC Chair reports any pertinent updates to ASCRS President and Executive Council
- Succession planning:
  - As the result of HEC and Executive Council action, ASCRS has succession plans in place for the HOD and the CPT.
  - The HOD and CPT have alternate delegates in place and approved by the EC to learn the “ropes” and transition into the delegate positions
- Establishment of a Coding Corner (CC) in Diseases of the Colon and Rectum. A subcommittee of the HEC evaluates surgeons questions and publishes the consensus answers in DC&R.
- Establishment of a HEC subcommittee, at the direction of the ASCRS Executive Committee, to send a 2025 compensation survey to ASCRS members. This will allow timely information to ASCRS members across the member spectrums for practice and compensation evaluation.
- HEC members publish articles in DC&R of timely economic and other topics of interest to Colon & Rectal Surgeons under “What Every Colon and Rectal Surgeon Should Know About....”
- The HEC is involved with health care legislative advocacy in concert with 12 other surgical specialties, the Surgical Care Coalition representing more than 150,000 surgeons working across the country advocating for healthcare and economic legislative reform.

(<https://www.facs.org/publications/advocacy-brief/> <https://www.ama-assn.org/health-care-advocacy>)

- CMS Resources:  
[https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/HomeHealthPPS/coding\\_billing](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/HomeHealthPPS/coding_billing)

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/physician-fee-schedule/search/overview>

The importance of understanding the current legislative, regulatory, and economic environment in the present day cannot be underestimated. The "business" end of providing care directly impacts our ability to effectively provide the clinical care that is best for our patients. Active interest and advocacy around these issues is crucial to the future of Colorectal Surgery and Medicine in general. The Healthcare Economics Committee of the ASCRS is dedicated to educating and supporting members of the ASCRS as they pursue understanding and participate in advocacy around current issues affecting the business practice of medicine. We seek to align our efforts as a Society, and with other Medical Professional Societies we will advocate for fair reimbursement, legislation that improves patient care, and reasonable regulations that allow for the safe provision of care.