



Society of Gynecologic Oncology: 2024 Advocacy Goals

The Society of Gynecologic Oncology's (SGO) mission is to prevent and treat gynecologic cancers with equity, thereby improving lives through advocacy, engagement, education, research, and collaboration. Through its Health Policy and Socioeconomic Committee (HPSE), the organization engages with Congress and the Executive Branch to influence policies affecting members and their patients.

To support the delivery of care and improve patient outcomes, SGO is prioritizing the following goals for each HPSE subcommittee that address specific topics that fall within their scopes. When goals fall within the scope of more than one subcommittee, they should collaborate to achieve those specific objectives. Additionally, member education through webinars and written communications will be provided to support this work.

Coding and Reimbursement



GOAL: Advocate for policies that support sustainable Medicare reimbursement and to avert any cuts in Medicare physician reimbursement.

TACTICS:

- Work in coalition with other physician specialties to avert cuts to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule's conversion factor.
- Work in coalition with other medical specialties to urge Congress to support policies to create a sustainable reimbursement system that includes regular and predictable updates to the Medicare conversion factor.
- Engage grassroots in support of these policies as appropriate.



GOAL: Ensure SGO members have codes available that accurately describe the services they perform and are reimbursed accurately.

TACTICS:

- Participate in the American Medical Association's CPT® Editorial Panel and Relative Value Scale Update Committee through the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists' (ACOG) Committee on Health Economics and Coding (CHEC).
- Identify potential coding gaps and issues and engage with ACOG's CHEC to address these issues.
- Collect data when necessary to support potential coding changes.
- Meet with staff at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) when appropriate.
- Develop coding guidance for members as SGO and related specialty societies and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) create new codes.



GOAL: Advocate for changes to the global surgical packages to ensure they accurately reflect the work performed by members across the global period.

TACTICS:

- Work with members to develop an evidence base that demonstrates the full scope of services included in gynecologic oncology globals and how the current global packages do not reflect that work and draft a position statement reflecting that information.
- Work in coalition with the surgical coalition as appropriate to engage with CMS and targeted members of Congress.
- Meet with staff at CMS either in coalition or alone when appropriate.



GOAL: Ensure that any changes to Medicare's practice expense calculations accurately reflect the cost of delivering gynecologic oncology care.

TACTICS:

- Submit comments on the CY 2025 MPFS any proposed changes or updates to the practice expense methodology.
- Work in coalition with other affected specialties to engage with Congress and CMS on this issue as appropriate.
- Meet with staff at CMS either in coalition or alone when appropriate.



GOAL: Advocate for Medicare telehealth policies that support beneficiary access to care.

TACTICS:

- Submit comments on the CY MPFS 2025 that support continued expanded access to telehealth services for Medicare beneficiaries.
- Support legislative changes that permanently expand access to telehealth services.



GOAL: Ensure payment policies do not impose unnecessary administrative burden on providers.

TACTICS:

- Review proposed rules to watch for the creation of payment policies that are overly burdensome and submit comment letters as appropriate.
- Develop resources for SGO members to assist navigating regulations that may impose significant administrative burden.
- Advocate for legislation and regulatory changes that reduce prior authorization requirements.



GOAL: Support policies that ensure payment parity for all oncology procedures regardless of the patient's gender.

TACTICS:

- Encourage members to identify any potential inconsistencies in reimbursement.
- Develop tools for members to share with their institutions if disparities are occurring at that level.
- Work with other organizations, including ACOG, as appropriate.

- Engage with HHS and CMS as appropriate.
- Pursue legislative strategies, including messaging bills and report language, in instances to bolster administrative engagement.

Payment Reform and Quality Care



GOAL: Ensure new and existing alternative payment models support the delivery of high-quality gynecologic oncology care.

TACTICS:

- Monitor the implementation of the Enhancing Oncology Model and Oncology Care Model and identify lessons learned to inform future iterations that may include gynecologic cancers or may be addressed in other payment models.
- Evaluate existing models, like accountable care organizations, to ensure that they address the needs of participating members and provide comments when appropriate.
- When and if Congress revisits the authorization for the Quality Payment Program, advocate for policies that support models for patients with conditions like gynecologic cancers, particularly those where social determinants of health and health disparities are present.
- Advocate for reforms to the Quality Payment Program that promote participation in alternative payment models that are better integrated into practice patterns, appropriately adjusted for risk and are financially sustainable for practices.



GOAL: Advocate for the development and maintenance of quality measures that reflect the range of care for gynecologic cancers and to ensure the quality measures are appropriately risk adjusted.

TACTICS:

- Engage with the Commission on Cancer in the development of gynecologic oncology quality measures once they are up for review.
- Engage with CMS, the National Quality Forum, the National Committee for Quality Assurance, and other organizations as appropriate to ensure that gynecologic oncology measures appropriately reflect how gynecologic cancer treatment is delivered, and surgeries are performed.
- As the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and CMS strive to improve equity, advocate to ensure that quality reporting programs are accurately risk adjusted to account for health disparities in the patient populations treated by SGO members.
- Advocate for the development of meaningful quality measures and risk adjustment when Congress considers legislation to reform Medicare payment.

Legislative Affairs



GOAL: Advocate for comprehensive legislation and regulations to prevent future chemotherapy shortages.

TACTICS:

- Advocate for a wide range of policies that will improve the resiliency of the supply chain, reward hospitals for purchasing drugs manufactured by more resilient supply chains, and result in great transparency and improved reporting regarding drug shortages.
- Ensure that chemotherapies are included in essential medicine lists by engaging with the administration and Congress.
- Advocate in coalition with other provider groups and patient groups when our priorities align.
- Seek out opportunities to provide briefing and testimony on this topic that highlight the particular challenges faced by patients with gynecologic cancers.



GOAL: Advocate for policies to support access to care and increased screening of gynecologic cancers.

TACTICS:

- Assess and advocate for legislation that supports the development of and expands access to new and existing screening tests, including self-sampling tests for HPV.
- Support legislation and regulations that expand access to care for gynecologic cancers.
- Engage with the administration on this topic, including the President's Cancer Cabinet, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Develop appropriations report language to support increased access and screening as appropriate.



GOAL: Increase research on and improve access to care for gynecological cancers.

TACTICS:

- Develop relationships and hold meetings with NIH's Office of Research on Women's Health, the National Cancer Institute, the Cancer Cabinet, and the Office of Science and Technology Policy.
- Explore how to increase the number of gynecologic oncologists on NIH study sections.
- Advocate for equity, opportunity, and access to clinical trials for patients with gynecologic conditions.
- Engage with the White House Women's Health Research Initiative and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine panel on women's health research to highlight the ongoing research issues related to gynecologic cancers.



GOAL: Advocate for the highest possible funding level for NIH and other federal health research programs in fiscal years (FY) 2024 and 2025 while promoting research on gynecologic oncology.

TACTICS:

- Advocate for the highest level of funding for NIH in FY 2024.
- Support the research community’s FY 2025 appropriations for the NIH and other federal research agencies with the intent to grow funding for “impactful” research.
- Develop and request report language on topics specific to gynecologic oncology related research and use data to the extent possible to support these requests.
- Provide NIH’s Center for Scientific Review with a list of potential reviewers with expertise in gynecologic oncology.
- Engage grassroots when appropriate.



GOAL: Advocate for increased Department of Defense (DoD) research funding for gynecologic cancers.

TACTICS:

- Advocate for growth of the DoD’s ovarian cancer research program in FY 2025.
- Urge Congress to include a specific line in the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) to support endometrial cancer research.
- Support the community funding requests for the CDMRP and Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program.
- Hold a Congressional briefing to educate members and their staff on public health burden and military relevance of these cancers.
- Engage grassroots at key points during the appropriations process, including by holding virtual meetings.



GOAL: Advocate for policies to support the well-being of all members of the gynecologic oncology care team.

TACTICS:

- Monitor and support policies that would invest in programs, practices, and other efforts dedicated to address practitioner well-being, including preventing and addressing burnout, suicide, and other mental health challenges.
- Develop relationships with federal agencies working on this issue, including but not limited to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the CDC’s National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and the HHS Surgeon General.

- Collaborate with the SGO Wellness Committee and highlight their manuscripts, publications, and other resources in our advocacy.
- Work with interested stakeholders and relevant coalitions, including but not limited to the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, the American Medical Association, and ACOG to discuss policy and resources for practitioners to prevent burnout and promote well-being.



GOAL: Advocate for policies to eradicate vaccine preventable cancers, such as cervical cancer.

TACTICS:

- Advocate for reimbursement policies that support vaccine counseling and education.
- Engage with the President’s Cancer Moonshot panel as cancer prevention is a focus of the effort.
- Support funding for programs administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to increase education and awareness of vaccines.
- Partner with other organizations whose members administer vaccines, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Physicians, and the American Academy of Family Physicians.



GOAL: Increase SGO’s grassroots engagement.

TACTICS:

- Hold at least one advocacy fly-in, either virtual or in-person, per year.
- Educate members on how to be an effective advocate through webinars, grassroots toolkits, and other communications.
- Regularly engage members by sending action alerts on SGO’s priorities.



GOAL: Cultivate existing and new congressional champions to position the SGO’s advocacy to succeed regardless of which political party is in control in Washington.

TACTICS:

- Hold a virtual and/or in-person advocacy days in support of our appropriations and other legislative requests and recruit participants based on a list of potential champions.
- Create and/or maintain relationships with the sponsors of legislation championed by SGO.
- Use educational materials developed by SGO to do outreach to key members of Congress.



GOAL: Strengthen partnerships and collaborations with likeminded patient groups.

TACTICS:

- Leverage SGO's Foundation for Women's Cancer to strengthen relationships with patient organizations.
- Invite a member of the Foundation's staff as well as patient advocates to participate in the advocacy fly-in.
- Hold at least one lunch-and-learn or other collaborative, educational event per year.