

## **GSA Alert - Contact CMS to Stop CRNA Chronic Pain Authorization**

CMS has proposed a new federal Medicare/Medicaid rule which would provide payment to CRNAs for treatment of chronic pain. The ASA and the GSA ask that ***every member contact CMS to submit a statement of opposition*** to this proposed rule.

### **Background:**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has put forth a proposal to allow payment to CRNA's for the diagnosis and treatment of chronic pain. ASA is extremely concerned about this attempt to consider chronic pain management within the scope of practice of a nurse anesthetist.

In the name of patient safety, ASA will take a strong stance to make clear that chronic pain management **IS** the practice of medicine. Nurse anesthetists have neither the education nor the training to perform chronic pain services.

### **Action Needed:**

We need your assistance immediately to contact CMS regarding this proposal as published in the proposed rule for the 2013 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule: CMS-1590-P, "Medicare Programs: Revisions to Payment Policies Under Physician Fee Schedule, DME Face to Face Encounters, etc." The AANA has organized a letter writing campaign to CMS in support of the proposal. It is important that the voice of medicine be heard.

Please follow this link: <http://tinyurl.com/cd8nxj6> and complete the steps listed at the bottom of the page to submit a comment to CMS. Your comment must be submitted no later than **5 p.m. eastern time on September 4, 2012**. This submission process will include completing a government online form with your first name, last name, city, country, state, zip code, organization name, category. Using the copy and paste feature, you will be able to insert a message into the comments section as well as add any additional comments you feel are necessary.