

Announcement from Highmark in April 2014 PRN indicating it was initiating medical necessity changes to its **Monitored Anesthesia Care (MAC)** policy involving colonoscopies, gastrointestinal endoscopy, bronchoscopy, and interventional pain procedures. It planned to no longer cover the cost of Propofol for otherwise healthy individuals effective **June 30, 2014**.

The Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED), the Pennsylvania Society of Gastroenterology (PSG), the Pennsylvania Society of Anesthesiologists (PSA), the Pennsylvania Ambulatory Surgery Association (PASA), and the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania (HAP) respond with **physician concerns that the policy is not in the best interest of patients**.

News Release: Highmark elects to delay its policy and engage in discussions about the issue with a **physician-led workgroup** which included PAMED members.

Highmark aligns its policy with Medicare, which implemented a national policy change on Jan. 1, 2015. Medicare revised the definition of “colorectal cancer screening tests” to include anesthesia that is separately furnished in conjunction with screening colonoscopies.

**APRIL
2014**

**MAY
2014**

**MAY 30,
2014**

**DEC
2014**

PAMED applauds its partner organizations and Highmark for their willingness to come to the discussion table. This is good news for physicians and patients, and it was made possible with the help of physicians like you.

The value of PASA membership - working on your behalf for patient safety.