

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT  
ANESTHESIOLOGY  
PHYSICAL THERAPY  
PEDIATRICS  
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NURSING  
RADIOLOGY  
LEADERS  
PA  
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PHYSIATRY  
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AND REHABILITATION  
ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY  
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**THE**

**LEADERS**

**IN SPINE**

**CARE**





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# WELCOME TO NASS

*NASS is a multidisciplinary medical organization dedicated to fostering the highest quality, evidence-based and ethical spine care by promoting education, research and advocacy.*

The North American Spine Society has a rich heritage as a surgical spine care organization that broadened its approach and the relevance of its mission by embracing approaches and members from other disciplines. NASS also carries rich traditions of industry collaboration and evidence-based patient care and member education.

**NASS' current mission seeks to strengthen the bridges between these groups and to lead with a dedication to quality, professionalism and advocacy.**

Together, from the center of this bridge, we can declare that members of the North American Spine Society provide the best care and that its value should be recognized.



*Charles L. Branch, MD  
President  
NASS Board of Directors*

THE NORTH AMERICAN SPINE SOCIETY (NASS) IS A DYNAMIC MULTIDISCIPLINARY MEDICAL SOCIETY THAT PROMOTES SPINE RESEARCH, EDUCATES SPINE CARE PROFESSIONALS, ASSISTS ITS MEMBERS IN PROVIDING HIGH QUALITY, COST-EFFECTIVE CARE AND INFORMS THE PUBLIC ABOUT SPINE HEALTH ISSUES.

The North American Spine Society was established in 1985 and grew out of the need for a scientific spine society that would include all members of the spine community regardless of specialty or locale. NASS members include MDs, DOs and PhDs in 24 spine-related specialties including orthopedics, neurosurgery, physiatry, pain management and other disciplines. Nurse practitioners, physician assistants, chiropractors, physical therapists, practice administrators and other allied health care professionals involved in spine care are represented in NASS as affiliate members. NASS also welcomes international spine specialists under the corresponding member category.

NASS members and staff are dedicated to fostering the highest quality, evidence-based and ethical spine care by promoting education, research and advocacy.

These pages provide a brief summary of the North American Spine Society's activities and highlights member benefits for those interested in joining the leading spine care society.



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## PUBLICATIONS

NASS publishes a variety of periodicals, books and other resources for spine providers and their patients, all of which are included as benefits of membership or are available at member discounts.

*The Spine Journal*, NASS' official scientific journal, is an international, multidisciplinary journal of original, peer-reviewed articles on research, treatment and ethical, evidence-based spine care. Print and online subscriptions to this monthly publication are included in the NASS membership fee.

*SpineLine*, NASS' bimonthly clinical and news magazine, focuses on relevant medical, ethical, socioeconomic and policy matters in spine and health care. Active, Associate, Affiliate, In-training and Emeritus members receive a complimentary print subscription and online access at [www.spine.org](http://www.spine.org). Corresponding members receive electronic copies via direct e-mail and online access.

NASS offers a large library of other resources to spine providers. Many are available at no cost, such as evidence-based *Clinical Guidelines*, patient safety tools, treatment consensus statements and more. Others are available at discounted rates to members, including *Contemporary Concepts in Spine Care*, *Compendium of Outcome Instruments for Assessment and Research of Spinal Disorders*, and the essential reimbursement reference, *Common Coding Scenarios for Comprehensive Spine Care*.

NASS also offers patient education materials including brochures, booklets, handouts, DVDs and more. These materials are available in bulk at discounted rates to NASS members.

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## ADVOCACY

The National Association of Spine Specialists, the advocacy arm of the North American Spine Society, identifies key policy concerns that can have an impact on spine care professionals and their patients. The Association provides a voice for members at the state and federal levels by relaying members' needs and concerns to the appropriate policymakers, and identifying and supporting political candidates who promote sound health policy. Association staff work within the Alliance of Specialty Medicine to promote access to specialty care through fair reimbursement, medical liability reform and quality of care legislation.

NASS is currently working on a campaign to encourage Congress to replace Medicare's sustainable growth rate formula with a system that more accurately reflects the cost of care provided. The Association has also established the NASS Legislative Action Center (LAC) at [www.capwiz.com/spine](http://www.capwiz.com/spine), which links members to a database of elected officials, legislation and advocacy tools. Action Alerts, sent via e-mail or posted on the LAC, inform members when an important piece of legislation is being considered and provide information on how to contact their representatives.



*NASS members  
take the concerns of  
spine specialists to  
Capitol Hill.*

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## HEALTH POLICY

NASS' Health Policy Council actively participates in the CPT/RUC (Current Procedural Terminology/Relative Value Scale Update Committee) process to protect and grow reasonable reimbursement for services provided by spine care physicians. NASS has been instrumental in obtaining new codes and making adjustments to existing codes to better serve spine care professionals.

In 2008, NASS was successful in changing cervical disc arthroplasty from a Category III (tracking) code to a Category I code. Additionally, the CPT Editorial Panel approved NASS' proposal to add two new Category III codes to report presacral lumbar arthrodesis including partial discectomy and preparation of the interspace for fusion.

Recently, NASS worked with other specialties to successfully develop CPT proposals to create four new codes for percutaneous arrays and plate/paddle electrodes and to require the use of imaging guidance with facet injections. NASS also participated in a multi-specialty effort to develop standardized times for positioning of patients for surgical and non-surgical spinal procedures that will be included in future RUC surveys.

NASS offers many spine care coding and reimbursement resources such as the annual Coding Update courses and the spine-specific coding guide, *Common Coding Scenarios for Comprehensive Spine Care*. In addition, NASS members have access to the Coding Q&A, a searchable online coding question and answer database. Please see the member benefits page for a complete listing of coding-related member benefits.

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# ANNUAL MEETING

The NASS Annual Meeting is a week-long forum that enables the leading authorities in spine care to address current issues. The meeting offers spine education, research findings, networking opportunities and industry exhibits. Premeeting courses are offered the day before the official start of the Annual Meeting and include didactic educational courses for all spine care professionals, as well as hands-on workshops for physicians.

The multidisciplinary audience is considered in the presentation of symposia, concurrent sessions, paper presentations, panel discussions, networking events and specialty educational tracks for non-physician attendees.

NASS members receive a significant discount on registration fees for the Annual Meeting. Registration also opens a few weeks early for members, allowing them to secure rooms at the hotels of their choice.



*Dynamic symposia and papers are presented at the Annual Meeting.*

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# EDUCATIONAL COURSES

NASS' facility for educational courses is the Spine Education & Research Center (SERC). SERC is located just outside of Chicago close to both Midway and O'Hare International airports. It opened in May 2007 and is quickly gaining momentum as the premier facility for spine education and research. CME credits are available to those who attend NASS-sponsored courses.

NASS is accredited with commendation by the ACCME. Members receive discounts on NASS' courses and registration is available on NASS' Web site at [www.spine.org](http://www.spine.org). In the near future, members will be able to go online and review as well as print their NASS CME history for all attained credit hours.

Spine Across the Sea is an additional educational offering. Spine Across the Sea is an international multidisciplinary continuing medical education meeting that is held every three years in conjunction with the Japanese Society for Spine Surgery and Related Research.



*Physicians experience hands-on training at the Spine Education & Research Center.*

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# RESEARCH

Countless people worldwide struggle with the pain and disability related to back pain, trauma and deformity. Research can provide the keys to relieve their pain and restore function. Spine care providers see these patients daily and recognize how important research is to moving closer to new and better treatments. Quality care transcends any one medical specialty—so does quality spine research.

As the only organization dedicated to a multispecialty approach to spine, NASS is uniquely important. The NASS Research Council facilitates high quality, safe spine care, advocates and collaborates to advance quality patient care, provides research funding, conducts research, and acts as a resource to spine providers and researchers. As the clinical heart of the organization, the Council promotes an evidence-based perspective and has a variety of volunteer committees and representatives responsible for developing resources and conducting analysis of clinical topics on everything from spine treatments to patient safety to performance measurement.

- Clinical guidelines
- Performance measurement
- Patient safety
- Research projects
- Evidence-based medicine
- Clinical resources
- Research funding

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# WEB SITE & JOB CONNECTION

The NASS Web site, [www.spine.org](http://www.spine.org), provides members with quick, easy access to NASS resources like: Spine Care Provider Search, CME and Spine Education & Research Center Calendar, Annual Meeting information, *SpineLine* OnLine, TSJ Gateway, Coding and Reimbursement Resources, Practice and Policy Resources, Clinical Care Resources, Spine Research Funding, Advocacy News and access to the Legislative Action Center, Individual Member Records, and Patient Education and Consumer Health Information. The site also allows members and others to do NASS business online, such as: update member records, register for courses and meetings, and purchase publications and products. Members may navigate to all areas of the site including password-protected, members-only content.

NASS members are listed in the Spine Care Provider Search, which allows prospective patients to find spine care specialists based on their location. Additional search functions will eventually be available.

The NASS Job Connection helps members find employers seeking qualified candidates. Employers post openings and job seekers can apply online for free. Members seeking positions can post resumes online, sign up for job alerts or search the job database. Members also can access Job Connection tools to improve resumes and create personal career Web sites. Job Connection is part of HEALTHeCAREERS Network, an integrated network of 70 health care association job banks.

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## MEMBER BENEFITS

- **Discounts on registration fees** for the NASS Annual Meeting and educational courses
- **Early registration** for the annual meeting
- High-quality **continuing medical education**: NASS is accredited with commendation by the ACCME
- **Discounts on publications and products**
- **Complimentary *SpineLine* subscription** plus online access to current and archived articles
- **Free or discounted subscription to *The Spine Journal***
- **Ask a Coding Question**—coding questions answered by the coding committee
- **Coding Q&A**, a searchable online coding question and answer database
- ***Health Policy Review***, a monthly e-publication focusing on key issues in health policy
- Online access to ***Seminars in Spine Surgery***, a quarterly journal addressing topics in the management and care of patients
- **Job Connection access** at [www.spine.org](http://www.spine.org)
- **NASS E-News**
- **Clinical Guidelines and Resources**
- **Committee involvement opportunities**
- **Listing in Spine Care Provider Search** at [www.spine.org](http://www.spine.org)
- **And more!** Visit [www.spine.org](http://www.spine.org) and apply today.

[WWW.SPINE.ORG](http://WWW.SPINE.ORG)

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# MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

**ACTIVE:** ABMS Board-certified MDs, DOs and PhDs, residing in North America who devote 50% or more of their professional activity to the spine.

**\$595** (Includes *The Spine Journal (TSJ)* and *SpineLine*.)

**ASSOCIATE:** Includes Board-eligible MDs, DOs and PhD candidates in the area of spine.

**\$595** (Includes subscriptions to *TSJ* and *SpineLine*.)

**AFFILIATE:** Includes nurse practitioners, physician assistants, chiropractors, physical therapists, non-Board certified physicians, other allied health care professionals and individuals involved in spine research/development.

**\$300** with *TSJ* & *SpineLine*    **\$250** *SpineLine* only

**CORRESPONDING:** Health care professionals who are not permanent residents of the United States. (Canadian and Mexican physicians are also eligible for this category of membership.)

**\$250** with *TSJ* & *SpineLine*    **\$150** *SpineLine* only

**IN-TRAINING:** Residents or Fellows who have an interest in the spine. (Membership must be upgraded within a year of finishing training.)

**\$100** (Includes subscriptions to *TSJ* and *SpineLine*.)

**EMERITUS:** Active NASS members for at least five years who have retired from the practice of medicine or have reached the age of 65. Please notify NASS if you wish to convert to this type of membership. Discounted subscriptions to *The Spine Journal* and *SpineLine* are available.

*Application fees are \$50.00 for all categories except In-Training, which has no fee. For more information or to apply for membership, go to [www.spine.org](http://www.spine.org).*

## JOIN THE LEADERS IN SPINE CARE

"A unified voice, garnering nonsurgical and surgical spine specialists, is important in advancing spine education, research, and advocacy. **NASS membership offers an excellent vehicle to be represented within the premier multidisciplinary spine organization in the world.**"

*Venu Akuthota, MD  
NASS Board of Directors*

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"**The greatest benefit of NASS membership is the broad spectrum of specialties that are represented in the society.** I enjoy that the meetings cover both non-operative and operative care of spine patients. NASS has been on the forefront of being involved with the politics of medicine thanks to our board and leadership. It gives us greater representation with the AMA and CMS."

*Christopher Kauffman, MD  
Performance Measure Advisory Committee*

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"The key to excellence for any physical therapist interested in nonsurgical and perioperative spine care resides within the North American Spine Society. Without equivocation, my career has been inspired and shaped by my experiences in NASS. The educational offerings are extraordinary. **However, the most important benefit to me has been the opportunity to listen, learn, research, teach and collaborate with the most passionate and dedicated medical experts in the world.** Regardless of rank or accomplishment, I have been acknowledged and engaged by members of all different disciplines represented within NASS. As a result, I have become a better clinical specialist and a more humble professional."

*Michael L. Reed, DPT, MSc, OC  
CME Committee*



SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY  
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AND REHABILITATION  
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NEUROLOGY  
RHEUMATOLOGY



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