

# ***Neurology Center of Wichita***

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Dear Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

Dr. Shah and I are writing to urge you to review the Kansas Medicaid rates for VNS reimbursement. To my understanding, they have not changed since 2009. Dr. Shah and I have a pediatric/adult neurology practice that includes over 70 patients with VNS therapy. We have been utilizing VNS therapy since 1996 and find it to be a useful tool in managing patients with drug resistant epilepsy.

These outpatient surgeries require our patients to be treated at Ascension Via Christi and Wesley Medical Center. We need these facilities to be open to allowing our patients to have surgery for new implants and battery replacements. If the reimbursement continues to be suboptimal, they will likely close their doors to allow our patients to be treated appropriately, which will force our patients to go without the care they need. Ascension Via Christi has already closed their doors to VNS therapy which has affected our abilities to treat patients but if WMC closes their doors, it will be devastating. We understand the Medicaid budget is tight, but we urge you to update the reimbursement to meet the needs of the hospital and surgeons in 2025.

Sincerely,



Kathryn Welch, PA



Subhash Shah, MD

Neurologist

