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SCAI Files Comments Supporting the Federal Trade Commission's Proposed Ban on Non-Compete Clauses

Non-Compete Clauses Restrict Interventional Cardiologists' Ability to Provide Care and Patient Access to Care

Washington, DC (April 24, 2023) The Society for Cardiovascular Angiography & Interventions ([SCAI](https://www.scai.org)), the leading nonprofit medical society representing invasive and interventional cardiology, today filed comments with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in support of its proposed rule that would ban non-compete clauses in employment contracts in most instances. Amidst a wave of hospital and health system consolidation, SCAI is concerned that the unfair use of non-compete clauses restricts interventional cardiologists from having the freedom to determine their employment, and in doing so it threatens patient access and continuity of care.

"Non-compete clauses have harmed our doctors and the patients they care for. These clauses restrict doctors' ability to seek better paying opportunities, operate their own practices, and interrupt treatment for patients when their doctors find new employment," said SCAI President Sunil V. Rao, MD, FSCAI. "We strive to ensure patients receive the best care possible, and that starts with competition in the marketplace."

The FTC proposed rule comes at a time of extraordinary consolidation in the healthcare market. In 2010, approximately 80-85 percent of SCAI members practiced medicine in an office-based or group practice. Now, more than a decade later, approximately 85 percent of SCAI members are employed by hospitals and health systems. Non-competes entrench this consolidation to the detriment of patients in underserved areas, particularly in rural and low-income communities.

The proposed ban on non-competes is a critical step to support competition in healthcare markets and patient access to care, and we commend the FTC for their thoughtful leadership on the issue. As the FTC considers the proposed rule and potential exceptions, SCAI recommends that any exceptions to a ban on non-competes should be reasonable, limited, and not limited to physicians only. SCAI looks forward to continued engagement on the proposed rule with the FTC.

About SCAI

The Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI) is the leading nonprofit medical society representing invasive and interventional cardiology. Founded in 1978, SCAI's mission is to lead the global interventional cardiovascular community through education, advocacy, research, and quality patient care. SCAI has dedicated its work to advancing the profession and is the designated society for guidance, representation, professional recognition, education, and research opportunities for invasive and interventional cardiology professionals. For more than 40 years, SCAI has personified professional excellence and innovation globally, fostering a trusted community of more than 4,500 members dedicated to medical advancement and lifesaving care for adults and children with cardiovascular disease.