

Proposed Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Jeopardizes Patient Care

The proposed Medicare physician fee schedule released by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) jeopardizes patients' access to timely surgical care.

The proposed rule cuts payments for surgical care, including

 **-9%** cardiac surgery

 **-8%** thoracic surgery

 **-7%** vascular surgery

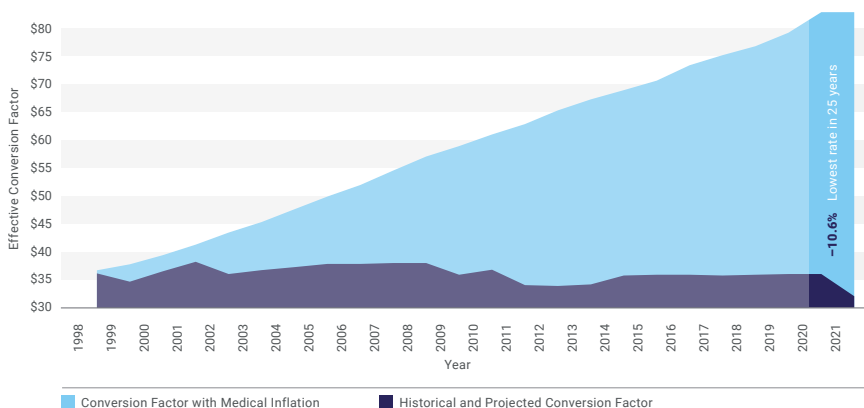
 **-7%** general surgery

 **-7%** neurosurgery

 **-6%** ophthalmology

The proposed rule further reduces the Conversion Factor, the basic starting point for calculating Medicare payments, by 11%. **This is the lowest rate in 25 years.**

Medicare Payments Fail to Keep Pace with Inflation



The proposed conversion factor for 2021 is \$32.26, a drop from \$36.09 in 2020 and the lowest in 25 years.

This sharp decrease and other adjustments to the Physician Fee Schedule dramatically reduce surgeons pay.

Surgical leaders around the country are speaking out against these devastating proposed cuts

“Now is not the time to reduce payments for surgical care. The Medicare payment rule will challenge an already fragile healthcare system”

Ann R. Stroink, MD, FAANS,
Chair of the AANS/CNS
Washington Committee.

“Cutting reimbursement now will only make healthcare harder to access. Congress must pass legislation that will waive the budget-neutrality requirement that is at the heart of these devastating cuts.”

Matthew Sideman, MD,
Chair of the Society for Vascular
Surgery Policy and Advocacy Council.

“We support steps to expand access to care, but this rule takes one step forward and several steps back by overlooking both patients and the surgeons who care for them.”

David B. Hoyt, MD, FACS,
Executive Director of the
American College of Surgeons.