



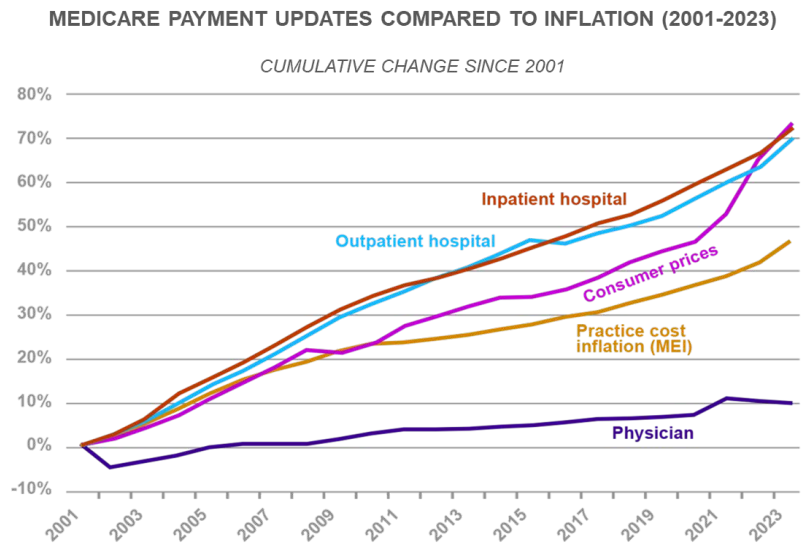
Physician Payment Reforms to Strengthen Independent Medicine and Protect Patient Access to High-Quality Care

FACT SHEET | SEPTEMBER 2023

Predictable Payment Updates Will Strengthen Medicare for Patients and Physicians

Physicians confront a 3.4 percent payment cut for caring for Medicare beneficiaries in 2024 after years of negligible increases, freezes and a payment cut in 2023. Meanwhile, competing hospital systems and other providers receive compounding payment increases linked to the cost of health care.

Physicians and their patients deserve a predictable payment system that matches Medicare reimbursement to the cost increases experienced by private practices. The Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act (H.R. 2474) blocks pending cuts and provides a permanent inflation-based update based on the Medicare Economic Index.



Sources: Federal Register, Medicare Trustee's Report, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Congressional Budget Office.

Reform MACRA to Provide More Opportunities to Participate in APMs

The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA) needs to be fundamentally reformed to provide independent physician practices with better opportunities to participate in alternative payment models (APMs).

Congress should terminate the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) program because it has not helped physicians deliver value to patients, has not helped patients choose physicians that deliver value effectively, and has been extremely costly and burdensome to physicians.

Congressional action should focus on providing predictable, annual updates that reflect increasing practice costs, reducing disparities in the cost for identical services between sites of care, and adjusting the process for APM approval to enhance APM development and to improve participation in value-based care by independent physicians.

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