

January 17, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, and Leader Jeffries:

The undersigned national medical organizations and state medical societies write to strongly urge Congress to quickly pass legislation to reverse the 3.37 percent Medicare physician payment cuts that took effect on January 1, 2024.

Failure to reverse these cuts will be harmful to the continued viability of physician practices and their ability to care for patients. After three consecutive years of cuts to Medicare services, physicians are at a potential breaking point. Facing a nearly 10 percent reduction in Medicare payments over the past four years and rising practice costs on top of the burdens and burnout associated with the pandemic, some practices are already limiting the number of Medicare patients they treat. We anticipate these cuts will be felt hardest by small, independent practices, like those in rural and underserved areas that continue to face significant health care access challenges. Continuing down this path is simply unsustainable.

We appreciate efforts by members of the House and Senate to preserve Medicare patients' access to physician services through introduced legislation that stops these impending cuts, hearings on the flawed Medicare payment system, and Dear Colleague letters urging Congress expeditiously pass bills halting the reductions. We call on Congress to eliminate these cuts in full by increasing the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Conversion Factor retroactive to January 1, 2024, by the appropriations deadline. This is our top legislative priority. Physicians are the only Medicare providers that did not receive an inflation update this year. In fact, they are the only Medicare providers who have a payment cut in 2024.

# Medicare payment updates are scheduled for all providers in 2024 EXCEPT physicians.

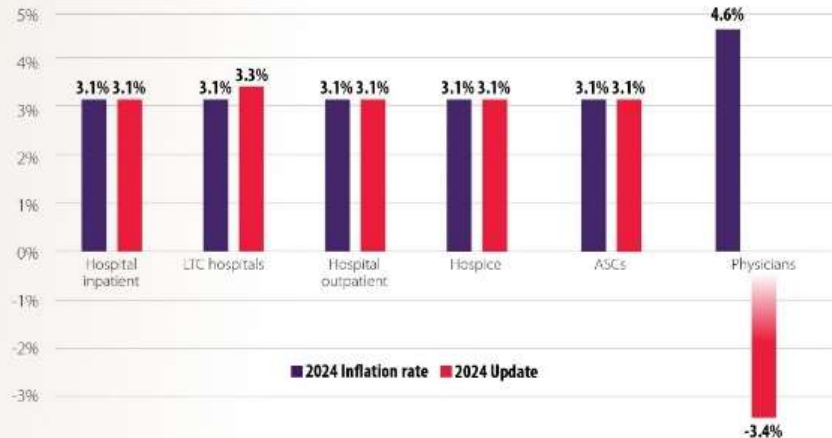
## Medicare provider updates for 2024

**Note:**

Hospital inpatient, LTC hospitals, hospice, hospital outpatient and ASC inflation rates reflect market basket less a productivity adjustment.

Physician fee schedule inflation rate is the Medicare Economic Index, which has a productivity adjustment.

Potential adjustments for quality performance omitted for all provider types.



Updated Dec. 2023

## We need to fix Medicare physician payment NOW.

The FY2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) included an extension of the Medicare sequester that added \$2.2 billion to the Medicare Improvement Fund – more than enough to offset stopping the 3.37 percent physician payment cuts in their entirety without adding to the federal deficit. Setting aside a portion of a Medicare Improvement Fund expansion that is partly financed by future cuts to Medicare physician payments is fair and precedented.

Nearly 200 Members recently wrote<sup>1</sup> Congressional leadership asking for the cuts to be stopped. We urge lawmakers to heed this call by working together and acting quickly to preserve access to care in the Medicare program. Anything less than full relief from the cuts negatively impacts our nation’s seniors. The physicians and the Medicare patients they treat deserve better.

Sincerely,

American Medical Association  
AMDA—The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology  
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
American Academy of Emergency Medicine  
American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery  
American Academy of Family Physicians

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2023-12-13-dear-colleague-medicare-payment-cuts-letter-au.pdf>

American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Otolaryngic Allergy  
American Academy of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery  
American Academy of Pain Medicine  
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Neuromuscular & Electromyography Diagnostic Medicine  
American Clinical Neurophysiology Society  
American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Chest Physicians  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Gastroenterology  
American College of Lifestyle Medicine  
American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics  
American College of Mohs Surgery  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Radiation Oncology  
American College of Radiology  
American College of Rheumatology  
American College of Surgeons  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Medical Group Association  
American Medical Women's Association  
American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Society for Clinical Pathology  
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association  
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
American Society for Laser Medicine & Surgery, Inc.  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
American Society of Addiction Medicine  
American Society of Anesthesiologists  
American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery  
American Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Nephrology  
American Society of Nuclear Cardiology

American Society of Plastic Surgeons  
American Society of Retina Specialists  
American Society of Transplant Surgeons  
American Thoracic Society  
American Urogynecologic Society  
American Urological Association  
American Vein & Lymphatic Society  
American Venous Forum  
Association for Clinical Oncology  
College of American Pathologists  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Endocrine Society  
Heart Rhythm Society  
International Pain and Spine Intervention Society  
Medical Group Management Association  
National Association of Spine Specialists  
North American Neuromodulation Society  
Outpatient Endovascular and Interventional Society  
Renal Physicians Association  
Society for Vascular Surgery  
Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES)  
Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography  
Society of Critical Care Medicine  
Society of Hospital Medicine  
Society of Interventional Radiology  
The American Society of Breast Surgeons  
The American Society of Dermatopathology  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons

Medical Association of the State of Alabama  
Alaska State Medical Association  
Arizona Medical Association  
Arkansas Medical Society  
California Medical Association  
Colorado Medical Society  
Connecticut State Medical Society  
Medical Society of Delaware  
Medical Society of the District of Columbia  
Florida Medical Association  
Medical Association of Georgia  
Hawaii Medical Association  
Idaho Medical Association  
Illinois State Medical Society

Indiana State Medical Association  
Iowa Medical Society  
Kansas Medical Society  
Kentucky Medical Association  
Louisiana State Medical Society  
Maine Medical Association  
MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society  
Massachusetts Medical Society  
Michigan State Medical Society  
Minnesota Medical Association  
Mississippi State Medical Association  
Missouri State Medical Association  
Montana Medical Association  
Nebraska Medical Association  
Nevada State Medical Association  
New Hampshire Medical Society  
Medical Society of New Jersey  
New Mexico Medical Society  
Medical Society of the State of New York  
North Carolina Medical Society  
North Dakota Medical Association  
Ohio State Medical Association  
Oklahoma State Medical Association  
Oregon Medical Association  
Pennsylvania Medical Society  
Rhode Island Medical Society  
South Carolina Medical Association  
South Dakota State Medical Association  
Tennessee Medical Association  
Texas Medical Association  
Utah Medical Association  
Vermont Medical Society  
Medical Society of Virginia  
Washington State Medical Association  
West Virginia State Medical Association  
Wisconsin Medical Society  
Wyoming Medical Society