

CMS Fee Schedule Increase and a Timely Solution

All Medicare provider clinics/organizations appreciate the sentiment behind CMS' increase in the physician fee schedule beginning in 2026— especially as it relates to supporting primary care physicians — the reality is that this adjustment still falls short. When measured against inflation and rising costs, the increase does not represent a true raise. Had CMS and Congress addressed the flaws in the sustainable growth rate formula over 20 years ago — ensuring physician payments kept pace with hospital reimbursements and inflation — this increase would be far more meaningful today.

The ongoing threats of reimbursement cuts and the political instability surrounding federal healthcare funding have reached an inflection point. Without a more meaningful increase in CMS reimbursement — it will remain difficult to recruit, retain, and sustain physicians as Medicare providers.

Reimbursement is also the primary reason why private practice physicians are dropping out of Medicare. Hospital-owned physicians can get around this with facility fees as well as having the primary care doctor refer everyone to have tests and see a hospital owned specialist. Private investment firms try to increase procedures in physician practices since this increases revenue.

A persistent gap remains between delivering high-value care and receiving fair compensation. In reality, these two things should not be mutually exclusive. Physicians need to continue advocating for both exceptional patient care and equitable reimbursement.

The CMS Medicare CCM Program (M-CCM) is a timely solution that is an equitable reimbursement and exceptional patient care, utilization, and care management opportunity. And CMS wants all qualified medical groups, hospitals, clinics, and providers to get on the uptake in 2026.

We will send you an email with your clinic or organization's CMS Data Set Snapshot (pdf), which will show the additional annual CMS reimbursement potential your clinic or organization can capture from the program. The summary will break down the numbers in quite simple language.

Go to our website to learn more. Then click the 'Request M-CCM Info Email' link at the bottom of the page.

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