

Talking Points

Medicare Fee Schedule

- For a fifth year in a row, Medicare finalized payment cuts for physician services in 2025. We request Congress pass H.R. 879, Medicare Patient Access and Practice Stabilization Act, introduced by Rep. Greg Murphy and Rep. Jimmy Panetta, to provide immediate relief to physicians.
- This bipartisan bill would reverse the latest round of Medicare payment cuts providing immediate financial relief to stabilize practices and preserve patient access to podiatrists.
- The bill would also provide an inflationary update to ensure payments in 2025 begin to reflect the rising costs of delivering care.
- **House Request: Co-sponsor H.R. 879**
- **Senate Request: Introduce a companion bill**
- We also call on Congress to create a sustainable solution to Medicare physician payment.
- Adjusted for inflation, Medicare physician payment declined 33% from 2001 to 2025.
- When physician reimbursements decline, fewer podiatrists can accept Medicare patients, leading to delayed care, more ER visits, and worse patient outcomes.
- Short-term patches are not enough, and Congress must pass a permanent solution that ensures annual inflationary updates, fixes systematic flaws with Medicare budget neutrality requirements, and simplifies MIPS.

Value of Podiatry

- Doctors of podiatric medicine are physicians and surgeons who treat the foot, ankle, and related structures of the leg.
- We receive four years of training in a podiatric medical school and three years of hospital-based residency training, and many go on to complete fellowships and earn board certification.
- We save limbs and lives.

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- Every day podiatrists keep America walking, mobile, and in the game.
- Podiatrists provide substantial value to our health-care system.
- Peer-reviewed studies have routinely shown that podiatrists are best equipped to treat lower extremity complications from diabetes and prevent amputations.
- When DPMs are part of the care team, outcomes are improved, hospitalizations are fewer and shorter, and costs are reduced.

Ensuring Access to Podiatric Physicians and Surgeons—Addressing Workforce Shortages

- The U.S. is currently facing a shortage of health-care professionals, including podiatrists. Unfortunately, according to EducationData.net, medical students complete their education with an average of \$250,000 in student debt.
- APMA urges Congress to address health-care shortages and address disparities in access to foot and ankle care by expanding loan forgiveness programs and including podiatric physicians in all health workforce initiatives.

Ensuring Access to Podiatric Physicians and Surgeons—Medicaid

- Because podiatrists are an “optional service” in Medicaid, cuts to the program could impact access to care and increase costs.
- For example, Arizona jettisoned Medicaid patients’ access to podiatrists, which led to poor outcomes and higher program expenditures, especially for individuals with diabetic foot infections.
- As Congress considers options to modernize and strengthen the Medicare and Medicaid programs, we urge Congress to implement sound policies that do not jeopardize patient access to specialty foot and ankle care.

Partnering with Congress to Strengthen Foot and Ankle Care

- Podiatrists, like me, are eager to work with Congress to improve patient outcomes, reduce health-care costs, and ensure the continued delivery of high-quality foot and ankle care.