



American
Urological
Association

2026 Annual Urology Advocacy Summit

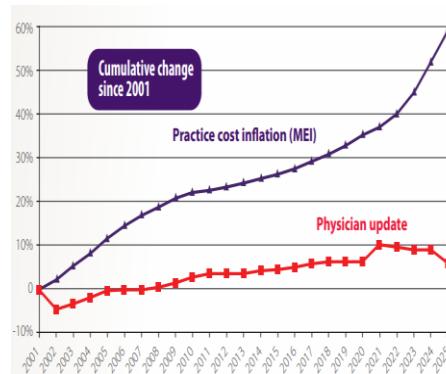
Protect Medicare – Pay Doctors Fairly

ISSUE

Medicare payments to physician offices have declined 33% from 2001 to 2025 when adjusted for inflation. Also, CMS made arbitrary cuts for 2026 that unfairly target specialty providers.

BACKGROUND

Unlike hospital reimbursements, payments to physician offices are not adjusted for inflation, despite rapidly increasing costs. Doctors struggle to keep their doors open, and when they close, patients must scramble to find new providers. If they turn to hospitals, costs increase for patients and payers. Only about 30% of urology practices remain independently owned. Studies show that industry consolidation increases prices.¹ Even worse, CMS recently cut payments to specialty physicians by 2.5% based on the faulty assumption that procedures are taking less time. In fact, a recent study showed that virtually all surgeries are taking longer due to patient complexity.²



THE ASKS

AUA requests that members of Congress:

- **Cosponsor *The Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act (H.R. 6160)***, which would adjust fees by inflation for practice costs.
- **Cosponsor *The Efficiency Adjustment Delay Act (draft bill)***, which would delay the efficiency adjustment until 2030 and require CMS to produce a study on the issue.

CONTACT

To cosponsor H.R. 6160, please contact Jamie.Truax@mail.house.gov with Rep. Raul Ruiz (D-CA-25). To cosponsor *The Efficiency Adjustment Delay Act*, please contact Elizabeth.Young@mail.house.gov with Rep. Rob Estes (R-KS-4).

¹ Government Accounting Office *Healthcare Consolidation: Published Estimates of the Extent and Effects of Physician Consolidation* GAO-25-107450

² Childers, et. al. *Longitudinal Trends in Efficiency and Complexity of Surgical Procedures: Analysis of 1.7 Million Operations Between 2019 and 2023*. *Journal of the American College of Surgeons* 241(5):p 741-744, November 2025.