

# MEDICARE CUTS

Increasing Consolidation and Threatening Access and Quality Care

## EVEN AS COSTS HAVE RISEN, THE AMOUNT MEDICARE PAYS SURGEONS FOR THA & TKA CONTINUES TO DECREASE

The amount Medicare pays surgeons for total hip arthroplasty (THA) and total knee arthroplasty (TKA) surgeries has decreased significantly from 1990 to today (Fig. 1) and represents only 6% of the total amount Medicare pays for THA or TKA (Fig. 2).

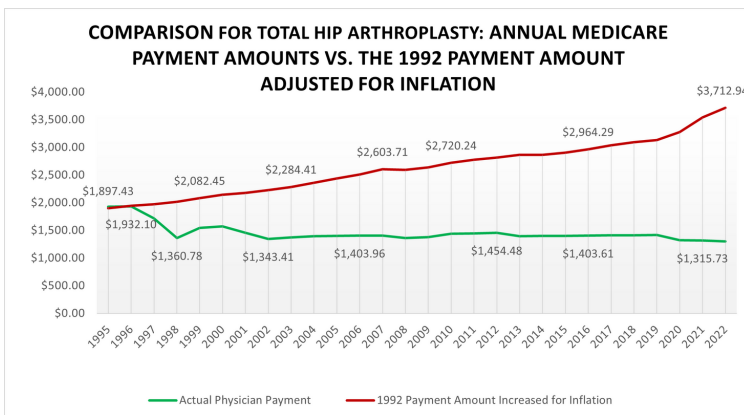


Figure 1. Surgeon reimbursement for TKA

## LOWER MEDICARE PAYMENT AMOUNTS REDUCE ACCESS AND INCREASE PATIENT BURDEN, CONTRIBUTES TO PRACTICE CONSOLIDATION, AND LEADS TO INCREASED PATIENT FRUSTRATION

Financial strain and cost-cutting measures resulting from reduced reimbursement may result in:

- Fewer surgeons that can see Medicare patients.
- Longer in-office wait times
- Longer telephone wait times
- Abbreviated visits
- Reduced provider access
- Stretched staffing resources



**INTERESTED IN TAKING ACTION?**  
CONTACT YOUR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVE USING THIS QR CODE TODAY

## AT A GLANCE

Through the years, continued Medicare payment cuts have begun to threaten access to hip and knee replacement for Medicare patients.

## TAKE ACTION

Help us pass H.R. 2474, the *Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act*

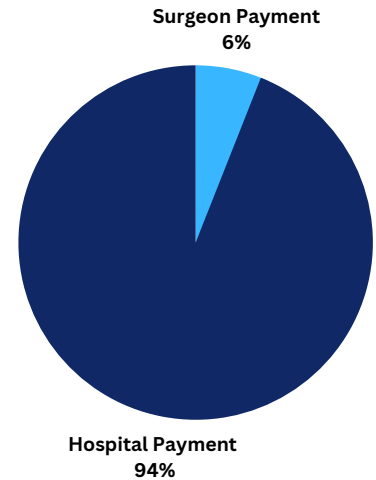


Figure 2. Percent of Medicare reimbursement that goes to the surgeon vs. the hospital

## LOWER MEDICARE PAYMENTS INCREASE FINANCIAL PRESSURE FOR SURGEONS

Surgeons use the \$1200 Medicare payment to cover many of the additional costs, including activities the surgeon and their care team performs outside of the operating room to improve quality and outcomes.

### Services at risk include:

#### ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

- Billing services
- Prior authorization processing
- Practice management & operations

#### HEALTHCARE SERVICES

- Pre-op preparation, education classes, exercises, visits, and clearances
- Surgery
- Coordination of care with other providers

#### OTHER EXPENSES

- Salaries of care team
- Medical records
- Technology
- Buildings and office space