What the CY 2027 Physician Fee Schedule Means for Orthopaedic Surgeons

CMS' final rule is released. Take a look back at AAOS' efforts to curb the impact.

Proposed CY 2027 MPFS Rule

JULY 14

CMS releases the CY 2027 MPFS proposed rule with several provisions of concern, including roughly 20% cuts to RVUs for total shoulder, total hip, total knee arthroplasty, and shoulder hemiarthroplasty.

SEPTEMBER 14

AAOS, in partnership with the House of Orthopaedics, submits formal comments to CMS detailing how proposed provisions will prevent millions of Medicare beneficiaries from accessing the musculoskeletal care they need.

SEPTEMBER 23

Congressman Greg Murphy, MD (R-NC), joined by 35 of his bipartisan colleagues, sent a letter to CMS asking the agency not to finalize the proposed ~20% cuts to total hip, knee and shoulder arthroplasty and shoulder hemiarthroplasty.

SEPTEMBER 29

Orthopaedic advocates gather in Washington, D.C. for the National Orthopaedic Leadership Conference. Advocates held over 300 meetings with legislators and staff during the conference, encouraging them to take action on the MPFS proposed cuts.

SEPTEMBER 11

AAOS members speak out during the CMS comment period, asking the agency to hit pause on proposed cuts and instead pursue evidence-based payment policies that protect patient access.

74 members of Congress sign onto a letter to CMS urging the agency to not move forward with Modifier 25 changes and instead use targeted tools to prevent genuine overlap or inappropriate billing.

AUGUST 3

AAOS members from across the country submit letters during Orthopaedic Advocacy Week to CMS and Congress asking for a more stable and sustainable approach to Medicare physician payment.

"Reforming our current payment system is no doubt an uphill battle, but orthopaedic surgeons have never shied away from a challenge." - AAOS President Wilford K. Gibson, AAOS Now.

AUGUST 30

AAOS members continue to advocate, sending over 5,000 letters to Congress and holding hundreds of meetings with legislators on policies in the proposed rule.

AUGUST 10

"This is one of the most dangerous and severe situations I've seen in the 30-plus years I've been in practice" - AAOS President WIlford K. Gibson, Becker's Spine Review, August 10.

AAOS meets with CMS, HHS and White House officials to explain the real-world impact of these proposed policies on patients, practices and care delivery.

THE FIGHT CONTINUES...

AAOS continues to work to reduce the immediate impact of the final rule while advancing the broader reforms needed to build a more sustainable Medicare physician payment system.

AAOS
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons

For more information and ways to get involved, visit the AAOS CMS Payment Resource Center.