

2021 Medicare Physician Payments

Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021

The legislation, Signed December 22, 2020, would ease the impact of Medicare fee schedule budget neutrality adjustments in calendar year 2021, as well as an extension of the 2% Medicare sequester moratorium through March 2021.

What does this all mean for my 2021 payments?

- Congress stepped in and delayed the implementation of the G code (for 3 years) and added 3.75% to physician payments for 2021.

- The updated Medicare conversion factor for 2021 is \$34.89.
That new CF represents about a 7.65% increase from the CMS published December conversion factor:
 - Approximately 3.75% can be attributed to the relief to physician payments; and
 - Approximately 3.77% can be attributed to the delayed implementation of the G-Code.

The practice expense relative value units (PE RVUs) and premium liability insurance (PLI) changed throughout the fee schedule based on the PE methodology and the redistributive effect of the pool(s).

The 2% sequestration relief (which runs out in 3 months) will not impact the CF or the RVUs, as that sequestration payment issue is handled on the claim itself.

Bottom Line for Vascular Surgery

We estimate that the overall impact on the specialty of vascular surgery (not specific practice impacts) is a negative 1%.

- The proposed overall impact on vascular surgery, published in the CMS December Final Rule, was a negative 6%.
- These estimates exclude the sequester extension.