



December 15, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senate Majority Leader Schumer, Senate Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, House Minority Leader McCarthy,

We are writing to express our appreciation and support for ongoing efforts in Congress to address Medicare payment cuts to office-based specialist physicians as part of any Medicare legislation enacted in the closing weeks of the 117th Congress.

These cuts are the result of reductions in practice expense reimbursement for medical equipment and supplies that CMS is implementing over four successive years starting in CY 2023. Importantly, the practice expense cuts fall solely on *office-based* specialists, and are severely impacting many specialties important to the Medicare beneficiary population, such as vascular surgery, urology, radiation oncology and pain management.

Other proposals related to the Medicare physician fee schedule being considered by Congress—which would address broadly applicable cuts associated with PAYGO, sequester and the fee schedule conversion factor—would not alone mitigate the much larger payment cuts facing many office-based specialists resulting from the practice expense reductions. Left unaddressed, they could eliminate the physician office as a viable setting of care for many procedures and reduce treatment options for Medicare beneficiaries. At a minimum, the reductions will lead to a shifting of procedures from the office setting, which is more accessible and clinically appropriate for many beneficiaries, to hospital outpatient departments and ambulatory surgery centers.

We believe that it is essential for Congress target a portion of any additional provider relief funding to mitigate the practice expense reductions for office-based specialists.

Sincerely,

Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed)

Medical Device Manufacturers Association (MDMA)

Medical Imaging & Technology Alliance (MITA)