

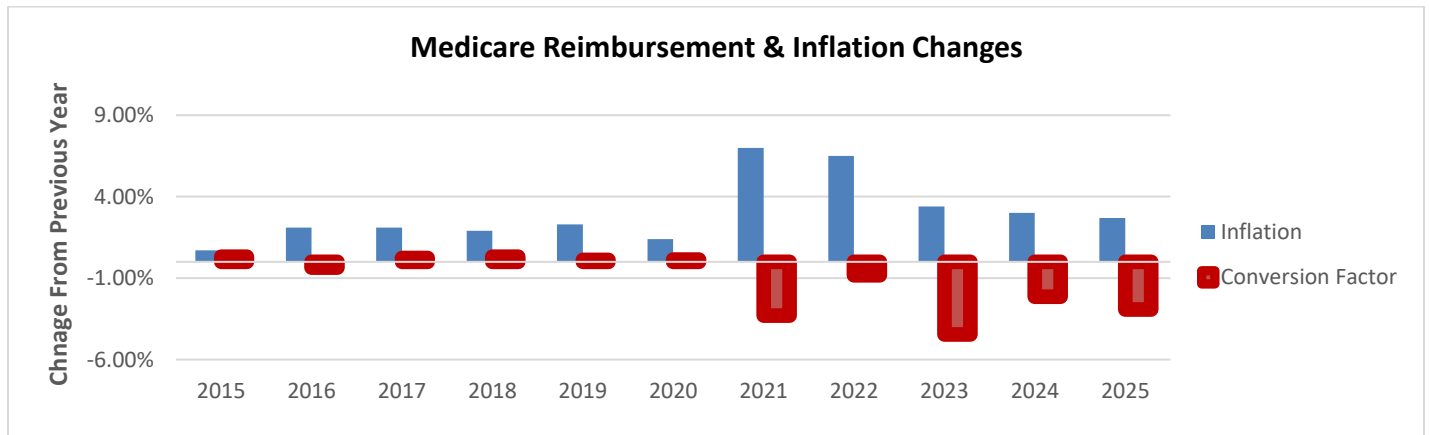
Protect Access to PT, OT, and ST Services for Medicare Beneficiaries

The National Association of Rehabilitation Providers and Agencies (NARA) urge the preservation of current Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement rates for Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, and Speech-Language Pathologists. The reductions outlined below show a sustained pattern of reimbursement erosion from 2011 - 2025:

Policy/Year	Therapists	Therapy Assistants
MPPR 2011-2012 (initially 25%)	-7%	-7%
Sequestration (2011-2030)	-2%	-2%
MPPR 2013-Current (increase to 50%)	-7%	-7%
Physician Fee Schedule 2021 - 2025	-10.62%	-4%
Physician Fee Schedule 2022	-0.75%	-15.75%
Physician Fee Schedule 2023	-1.35%	-1.35%
Physician Fee Schedule 2024	-1.69%	-1.69%
Physician Fee Schedule 2025	-2.83%	-2.83%
TOTAL	-26.62%	-41.62%

Impact of Reimbursement Reductions

- When therapy clinics close, patients lose timely access to medically necessary rehab, slowing recovery after falls, joint replacements, deconditioning, and other injuries, and increasing the risk of complications and avoidable decline.
- Rural and underserved communities are hit first and hardest, widening existing health inequities and forcing beneficiaries to travel farther, wait longer, or go without care.
- Inflation-driven cost pressures are outpacing providers' ability to pay and retain clinicians, accelerating burnout and turnover and deepening the rehabilitation workforce shortage.
- Tight margins block investment in essential technology and infrastructure, limiting modernization, quality improvement, and innovation that help patients recover faster and stay independent.



Request to Support the Following Bills/Actions:

- HR 8163 Provider Reimbursement Stability Act to modernize and update underlying mechanics of the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule.
- HR 879 /S 1640 Medicare Patient Access and Practice Stabilization Act. Establishes an annual inflationary update to payment rates based on the Medicare Economic Index
- HR 3514/S 1816 Establishes requirements for use of prior authorization under Medicare Advantage plans.
- HR 1171/S 2612 (SAFE Act) Inclusion of physical and occupational therapists as health professionals for purposes of the annual wellness visit under the Medicare program.

NARA is the trade association representing 100+ organizations consisting of over 100,000 healthcare professionals dedicated to providing a multitude of skilled rehabilitation therapy services to individuals in a variety of settings including inpatient, outpatient, skilled care, assisted living, educational systems, industry/occupational health.