

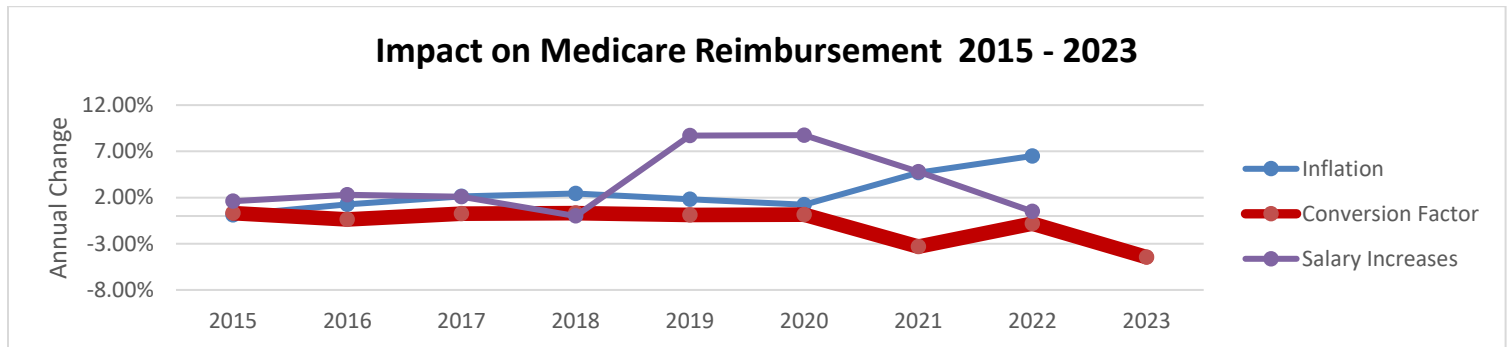
Stop Payment Reductions for Rehabilitation Providers

The National Association of Rehabilitation Providers and Agencies (NARA) opposes further reductions in Medicare reimbursement to Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech Language Pathology providers. Below is a list of the reimbursement reductions during from 2011 - 2024:

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	-4%	-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%
<i>Scheduled Physician Fee Schedule 2025</i>	-2.93%	-2.93%
<i>PAYGO Reinstated January 2025</i>	-4.00%	-4.00%
TOTAL	-30.72%	-45.72%

Impact of Reimbursement Reductions

- Clinic closures leading to reduced accessibility to therapy services crucial for beneficiaries recovering from falls, joint replacements, muscle weakness, and other injuries.
- Disproportionate impact of beneficiaries that are high-risk and in rural and underserved areas
- Inability to meet rising salary requirements for qualified rehabilitation professionals due to inflation and the increased cost of living, exacerbating the workforce shortage
- Diminished capacity to invest in the essential technology needed for advancing practice areas



Recommendations to Congress:

- **Support and Pass HR 2474:** replaces separate conversion factors with just one, updates annual percentage increase in the Medicare Economic Index (MEI). Support Senate introduction of companion bill.
- **Support and Pass HR 6545:** updates budget neutrality threshold and sets more timely updates to direct costs used to calculate practice expense RVUs. Support Senate introduction of companion bill.
- **Support and Pass HR 6371:** raises the budget neutrality threshold from \$20 million to \$53 million and increasing it every five years by the cumulative increase in the Medicare Economic Index; updates practice expense inputs, at least every five years; and limits the year-to-year conversion factor variance to no more than 2.5% each year.
- **Support and Pass HR 7618:** the SAFE Act adds new falls prevention policy to this program providing for a referral to a separate falls risk assessment and preventive services provided by a physical therapist or occupational therapist if a physician discovers during the AWV the beneficiary has fallen within the previous calendar year. Support Senate introduction of companion bill.

The services rendered by rehabilitation providers are crucial for Medicare beneficiaries, especially those who are aspiring to age in place. However, the cumulative effect of annual reimbursement reductions will inevitably exacerbate access to care challenges for Medicare beneficiaries seeking physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology services.

NARA is the trade association representing 100+ organizations consisting of over 90,000 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.