

Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
1035 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers,

As your constituent, I'm asking you to prevent deep cuts to Medicare providers that are slated to take effect on Jan. 1, 2022. Given the current instability in the health care system, now is not the time to reduce payment to Medicare providers, which will hinder patient access to care, especially in rural and underserved areas.

In the 2020 final Medicare Physician Fee Schedule rule, CMS included substantial cuts, effective Jan. 1, 2021, to more than three dozen health care providers in order to subsidize an increase in payment for evaluation and management codes, also called E/M codes, that physicians use.

Physical therapy was slated to receive a 9% cut in 2021; but Congress acted and included additional funds for the 2021 Medicare fee schedule via the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020. Thanks to this intervention, the proposed 9% cut to physical therapy was reduced to 3.3%. However, CMS did not reconsider the impact of similar payment cuts in the recently released 2022 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule proposed rule, and is reducing the conversion factor by 3.75%. The only way to prevent further cuts from being implemented on Jan. 1, 2022, is for Congress to again intervene.

Therapists, clinics, and rehabilitation facilities continue to recover from the pandemic, particularly in rural and underserved areas. Patients will not have adequate access to care if the economic impact closes practices. It has become clear that now is not the time to implement payment cuts that will severely impact patient access to care and exacerbate the instability of health care providers' practices.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,