

## Fact Sheet: Proposed Rule for Physician Fee Schedule Changes

On August 3, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced several proposed changes to the Physician Fee Schedule. (The PFS is CMS' way of calculating how healthcare providers are reimbursed for Medicare Part B services.)

These proposed changes – slated to go in to effect January 2021 – are estimated to **decrease payment for therapy services by more than 9%**. (Note: Many other medical/ancillary services may also see significant changes in payment, too.)

Up until October 5 @ 5:00PM, CMS will receive formal written comments from the public on the Proposed Rule prior to the Final Rule being issued in late October/early November.

These proposed changes are **in addition** to the planned cuts in reimbursement for services rendered by therapy assistants, which are scheduled to take effect in 2022.

Given the particular challenges our industry has faced related to COVID-19, these changes – if passed – likely create serious viability risks for skilled nursing providers, outpatient therapy providers and will put increased financial pressure on the entire therapy profession.

This has been on the industry's radar since early 2019. A very large percent of healthcare providers will be impacted by changes outlined in the proposed rule. While hospital and physician groups have historically been effective at lobbying for change, the hope is for these collaborative partners to advocate for a more favorable outcome for skilled nursing providers (and subsequently their therapy partners).

Other elements include:

- Assistants continue to perform maintenance therapy
- Telehealth provisions for therapy (which will require advocacy for an extension beyond the PHE)
- Benign documentation clarifications

Learn more [here](#) about HealthPRO® Heritage's aggressive and strategic response, inclusive of:

- Continued communication as updates become available, including the publication of the final rule and/or legislative actions, and practice management strategies
- Collaboration and/or advocacy with partners and organizations (APTA, AOTA, ASHA, NARA, NASL) to shape formal and informal response to CMS during comment period
- Members of the HPH team will be meeting with Congress representatives via virtual hill day : Sept 9<sup>th</sup>
- Call to action for therapists, providers, patients/residents, and industry organizations