



# Physician Payment

---

As of December 22, 2011

---

In 2010, the Academy:

- Sent CMS a December 22 [letter](#) in response to the final 2011 Medicare physician fee schedule.
- Sent formal [comments](#) to CMS on December 16 regarding the requirement that Medicaid programs enter into contract with RACs which must identify improper payments made through the Medicaid program and recoup overpayments. The AAFP also participated with 80 state and national medical organizations in a related comment [letter](#) dated January 10, 2011.
- In partnership with 107 other state and national associations urged CMS to immediately reimburse physicians for six payment policy changes that affect 2010 Medicare claims in a December 10 [letter](#). In direct response to the letter, CMS made a February 8 [announcement](#) pertaining to the reprocessing of certain 2010 Medicare claims that were affected by the ACA and corrections made to the 2010 Medicare physician fee schedule.
- In anticipation of eventually issuing formal regulations, CMS solicited public feedback on seven general questions pertaining to Medicare ACOs. In a December 3 [letter](#), the AAFP offered our perspective to these questions and highlighted the recently published [Joint Principles for Accountable Care Organizations](#), collaboratively created by AAFP, the American College of Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Osteopathic Association.
- In partnership with the American College of Physicians, American Osteopathic Physicians, and National Rural Health Association, sent an October 27 [coalition letter](#) to CMS encouraging an expansive eligibility standard for the Medicare primary care bonus payment so that it would not penalize rural physicians who are called on to provide a wider scope of services.
- Reiterated to CMS in an October 21 [letter](#) our support regarding the elimination of consultation codes.
- Cautioned CMS against relying solely upon the AMA's RUC in an October 8 [letter](#).
- Sent a comment [letter](#) on September 27 to the FTC, the HHS Office of Inspector General, and CMS containing the AAFP board-approved ACO principles.
- In a September 16 [letter](#) with five organizations representing family medicine providers, expressed appreciation to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for the FY 2011 budget amendment which proposed an additional \$250 million for Health Professions programs to address the expected demand for primary care.
- In partnership with the Council of Academic Family Medicine, submitted August 31 [comments](#) to CMS focusing on the graduate medical education provisions within proposed regulatory changes to the hospital outpatient payment system.
- Submitted extensive comments in a July 28 [letter](#) to CMS regarding their proposed 2011 physician fee schedule.