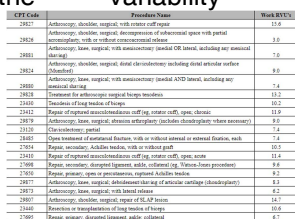


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INTRODUCTION: While Medicare reimbursement for orthopedic sports medicine procedures is known to be decreasing, little is known on the state of Medicaid reimbursement nationwide. This study compares Medicaid and Medicare rates for the 20 most commonly billed sports medicine procedures.

RESULTS: Medicaid mean reimbursement was lower for 19 of the 20 procedures. In total, Medicaid reimbursed surgeons 12.5% less than Medicare and 23.1% less when adjusted for cost-of-living. Variation in Medicare rates between states was constant with a coefficient of variation of 0.06. For Medicaid, the coefficient of variation ranged from 0.27-0.68 for unadjusted data and 0.37-0.69 for adjusted data.

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