

**Medicaid Reimbursement for 20 Commonly-Billed Orthopedic Sports Medicine Procedures was 14.9% less than Medicare**

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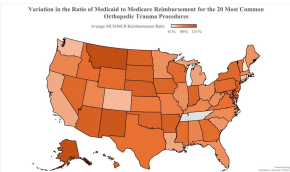
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**INTRODUCTION:** Medicaid reimbursement to orthopedic trauma surgeons is highly variable between states. We sought to assess this variability by evaluating the top 20 most common orthopedic trauma procedures and to compare overall Medicaid to Medicare reimbursement rates.

**METHODS:** The top 20 most common orthopedic trauma surgery procedural codes were identified. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services physician fee schedule was used to determine reimbursement rates from Medicare, and state Medicaid fee schedules were used to determine reimbursement rates for Medicaid. State Medicaid rates were compared to their corresponding Medicare rates to determine a dollar difference and dollar difference per relative value unit. The Medicare Wage Index was used to adjust Medicaid rates based on the cost of living for the state as well. Coefficients of variation were calculated to represent overall variability in Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement rates.

**RESULTS:** The mean reimbursement rates for Medicaid were lower for all 20 procedures compared to Medicare. Six states consistently reimbursed at a higher rate than Medicare, while 39 states routinely reimbursed at a lower rate. The coefficient of variation ranged from 0.24 to 0.34 for the Medicaid unadjusted group and from 0.35 to 0.44 for the Medicare Wage-Index adjusted group. In contrast, the Medicare group was consistent at 0.06 for all 20 procedures. The dollar difference for Medicaid reimbursement compared to Medicare ranged from -\$77 to -\$225, and the dollar difference per relative value unit ranged from -\$5.96 to -\$15.16. On average, Medicaid reimbursed 16.0% less than Medicare, and 29.6% less when adjusting for cost-of-living.

**DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION:** This study found a high amount of variation between state Medicaid reimbursement rates and average rates that were significantly lower than Medicare reimbursement rates for all 20 procedures. The discrepancy in reimbursement was increased when Medicaid rates were adjusted for state cost-of-living. With such a wide disparity in reimbursement between Medicare and Medicaid payment to physicians, it is important to emphasize the demonstrated need for an updated approach to physician and surgeon reimbursement which adequately rewards high-value care for all patients, ensuring that all providers are equitably compensated for their work.



CPT code      Procedure Name      High RUC

24312	Open treatment of distal radius fracture or ulnar fracture	8.7
24313	Open treatment of proximal humerus fracture or ulnar fracture	12.3
24314	Open treatment of humeral shaft fracture or ulnar fracture	12.3
24315	Open treatment of humeral head fracture or ulnar fracture	12.3
24316	Open treatment of humeral head fracture or ulnar fracture	12.3
24317	Open treatment of humeral head fracture or ulnar fracture	12.3
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24398	Open treatment of humeral head fracture or ulnar fracture	12.3
24399	Open treatment of humeral head fracture or ulnar fracture	12.3
24400	Open treatment of humeral head fracture or ulnar fracture	12.3

State      Medicaid Rate      Medicare Rate      Difference      Difference %      Coefficient of Variation

Alabama	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Alaska	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Arizona	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Arkansas	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
California	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Colorado	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Connecticut	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Delaware	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
District of Columbia	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Florida	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Georgia	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Hawaii	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Idaho	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Illinois	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Indiana	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Iowa	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Kansas	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Kentucky	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Louisiana	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Maine	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Maryland	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Massachusetts	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Michigan	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Minnesota	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Mississippi	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Missouri	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Montana	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Nebraska	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Nevada	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
New Hampshire	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
New Jersey	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
New Mexico	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
New York	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
North Carolina	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
North Dakota	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Ohio	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Oklahoma	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Oregon	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Pennsylvania	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Rhode Island	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
South Carolina	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
South Dakota	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Tennessee	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Texas	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Utah	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Vermont	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Virginia	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Washington	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
West Virginia	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Wisconsin	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Wyoming	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00

State      Medicaid Rate      Medicare Rate      Difference      Difference %      Coefficient of Variation

Alabama	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
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California	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Colorado	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Connecticut	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Delaware	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
District of Columbia	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Florida	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Georgia	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Hawaii	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Idaho	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Illinois	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Indiana	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Iowa	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Kansas	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Kentucky	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Louisiana	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Maine	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Maryland	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Massachusetts	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Michigan	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Minnesota	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Mississippi	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Missouri	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Montana	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Nebraska	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Nevada	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
New Hampshire	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
New Jersey	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
New Mexico	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
New York	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
North Carolina	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
North Dakota	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Ohio	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Oklahoma	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Oregon	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Pennsylvania	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Rhode Island	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
South Carolina	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
South Dakota	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Tennessee	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Texas	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Utah	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Vermont	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Virginia	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Washington	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
West Virginia	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Wisconsin	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00
Wyoming	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00