

# Comparison of Medicare Reimbursement to Surgeons vs Hospitals for Revision TJA from 2013-2021

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**INTRODUCTION:** The purpose of this study was to evaluate trends in Medicare reimbursement to both hospitals and surgeons for all revision hip and knee arthroplasty episodes of care billed to Medicare from 2013-2021.

**METHODS:** The Inpatient Utilization and Payment Public Use File from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services was queried for all revision hip and knee arthroplasty episodes (Diagnosis Related Group Codes 466-468) billed to Medicare from 2013-2021. For surgeon reimbursement, the Physician and Supplier Public Use File was utilized to collect Medicare physician payment for all fee-for-service surgeon payments for hip or knee revision procedures (Current procedural terminology codes 27134, 27137, 27138, 27486, and 27487) during this time. All monetary data was adjusted for inflation to year 2021 dollars. For each year, the mean reimbursement was scaled for the number of each type of procedure to account for reimbursement differences between procedures.

## RESULTS:

From 2013 to 2021, Medicare paid surgeons for 399,474 revision arthroplasty procedures, totaling over \$550 Million in direct fee-for-service payments to surgeons. During this same time, Medicare paid hospitals for 384,882 inpatient revision TJA episodes of care under the Inpatient Prospective Payment System totaling over \$9.2 Billion in payments. From 2013 to 2021, the mean adjusted surgeon reimbursement for revision arthroplasty procedures decreased from \$1,406.82 per case in 2013 to \$1,277.24 in 2021 (-9.2%). Meanwhile, the mean hospital reimbursement per case increased from \$22,530.86 in 2013 to \$25,603.57 in 2021 (+13.6%).

**DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION:** From 2013 to 2021, the mean adjusted Medicare reimbursement to surgeons for revision arthroplasty decreased by 9.2%, while the mean adjusted reimbursement to hospitals increased by 13.6%. This study demonstrates a disparity between surgeon and hospital payment trends in revision arthroplasty.

