



Proposed 2021 Medicare Pay Schedule: 9 Things Doctors Should Know



The Medical Association is working with the AMA and many national specialty organizations to eliminate or waive the 11% reduction in the Medicare conversion factor proposed by CMS in their recent physician payment rule. See the story below from the AMA.

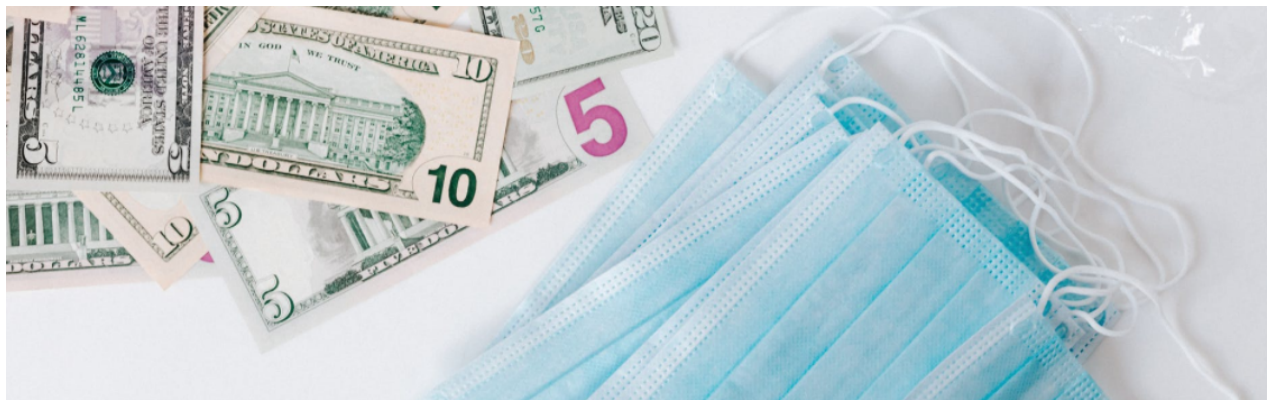
Significant positive changes are on the way for 2021 related to coding and payment for evaluation and management (E/M) physician office-visit services. Also looming, however, are several potential negative changes, such as an offsetting across-the-board payment cut for all physicians and other

health professionals, as detailed in the proposed 2021 Medicare physician payment schedule issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

While those two developments have garnered most of the attention, the 1,355-page document also contains a host of other details that signal how COVID-19, budget-neutrality requirements and a myriad of other factors will shape health care operations and economics next year.

[Read the entire story from the AMA here](#)

Deadline Extended to Apply for COVID-19 Provider Relief Funds



Eligible physicians now have until Sept. 13 to apply for up to 2% of total annual revenues to help offset increased expenses and lost revenues resulting from the COVID-19 public health emergency. Physicians who primarily care for patients with Medicaid or CHIP coverage may be eligible. In response to Medical Association of the State of Alabama and AMA advocacy, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) fixed an eligibility problem that had previously excluded physicians who had received an automatic disbursement from the Provider Relief Fund earlier this year because they see a few Medicare beneficiaries, even if those physicians had returned the disbursement. Provider Relief Fund payments are grants, not loans, and do not need to be repaid. More information about eligibility and terms and conditions for use of the funds can be found [here](#).

HHS extended the previous deadline, which was Aug. 28. While the additional time was appreciated, the Medical Association and the AMA are urging HHS to meaningfully extend the deadline and keep open the application portal so physicians have sufficient time to apply for this critical funding. Physicians are focused on continuing to care for their patients during this unprecedented public health emergency and need more time to determine eligibility and submit their applications.

[Apply Here](#)

Five Things to Consider When Selling Your Practice to a Private Equity Firm



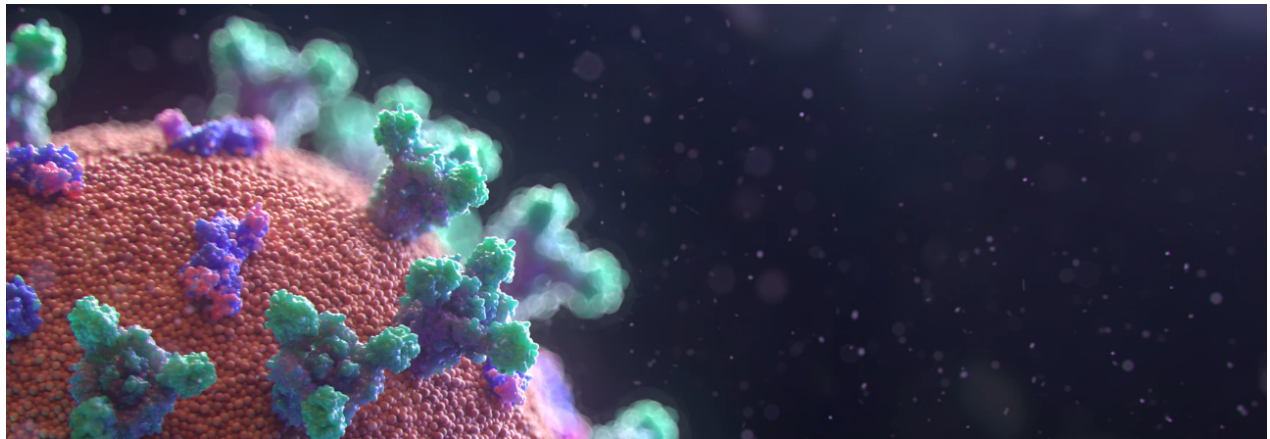
A growing number of physicians are selling their medical practices to private equity firms in order to "monetize" their practice, as well as to access capital and obtain operational efficiencies. In the Southeast, we are seeing consistent private equity activity in the specialties of anesthesiology, gastroenterology, dermatology, ophthalmology, oncology, ENT, and internal medicine, as well as others.

[Read more on NewsCenter](#)

Governor Ivey Issues Call to Action for Mask Wearing



Alabama Coronavirus Update: New Cases Tick Upwards as Experts Plead for Responsibility over Labor Day Weekend



The daily average of new coronavirus cases in Alabama trended upwards in the last week as health experts urged the public in the strongest terms possible to keep observing COVID-19 precautions over the Labor Day weekend.

The warnings about public behavior over Labor Day were made in particular by Dr. Jeanne Marrazzo, M.D., director of UAB's Division of Infectious Diseases, who briefed reporters by videoconference on Thursday afternoon.

In Alabama, 114 individuals were hospitalized with COVID-19 on average each day over the last week, roughly in line for where the state's hospitalizations have been since the third week of August.

[See the full story from Yellowhammer News](#)

Alabama Medicaid Agency Searching for a Medical Director

The Alabama Medicaid Agency, Montgomery Central Office, is seeking to fill a position of a Medicaid Medical Services Physician (40405). This is a Medical Director position and is responsible for providing clinical leadership and guidance to the Alabama Medicaid Agency in coordination with the Commissioner's Office. This highly advanced professional, administrative, and medical position involves providing guidance in medical related services within the Alabama Medicaid Agency. Work involves providing assistance to agency officials in making determinations of level and quality of medical care provided to recipients by health care providers. Duties also include serving as medical consultant in the development and modification of health care policies and procedures, and the implementation of health care delivery systems statewide. Work is performed with a high degree of independent and professional judgment. This is a great opportunity for a Physician that wants to provide clinical guidance in an office setting.

Competitive Benefits and Salary:

- Desirable work schedule
- 40 hour work week (typically Monday – Friday 8am to 5pm)
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If you are interested in this position, please call the Alabama Medicaid Agency at 334.242.5600 for more information by September 15, 2020.



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- ['You don't exist': Inside UA's COVID-19 isolation dorms](#)
- [COVID immunity lasts longer than initially thought, study finds](#)
- [CDC tells states: Be ready to distribute vaccines on Nov. 1](#)
- [Saliva COVID-19 Test as Good as, Perhaps Beats, Nasal Swab: Study](#)

The banner features a teal background. On the left, the logo for the Medical Association of the State of Alabama is displayed above the text "COVID-19" in red and "EARN FREE CME" in large yellow letters. Below this, it says "FIND MORE INFORMATION ON COURSES HERE" in white. On the right, there is an illustration of a person in a white lab coat sitting at a desk with a computer, looking at a screen. In the background, there are stylized representations of COVID-19 virus particles.



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