

CMS Changes: Three Effects on Pediatric Practices in 2021 and Beyond

1. Primary Care and Pediatrics Are Seeing Positive Impacts

When examining code changes, there were notable improvements for primary care codes. In fact, in MGMA's list of specialties that were positively impacted by 3 percent or more, pediatrics and family medicine were included. This is due to the adjustments to the RVU values in the PFS final rule and the stimulus' impact on the Medicare conversion factor. (See tables in the [full MGMA article](#) for more information.)

2. Reimbursement Rates Are Changing Again in 2022

In 2021, partly due to the stimulus bill that boosted payments, there have been sizable increases in reimbursement, especially for many of the E/M visit codes associated with seeing patients on a regular basis. The article suggests those rates will drop next year, and MGMA encourages practices to be aware of the Medicare payment decreases for 2022, compared to the 2021 levels.

3. COVID Is Still Influencing Practices

The ongoing global pandemic continues to impact healthcare, and this includes survey data that informs physician compensation. Practice leaders should understand that 2020 survey data, which is based on pre-pandemic data from 2019, might actually be more useful than 2021 survey data for determining compensation. This would provide a more normal value and help to set a baseline for future years.

For more details, we encourage you to read the [full article from MGMA](#). To do so, you'll need to log into your MGMA account.