



DELAWARE ORTHOPAEDIC SPECIALISTS

PROPOSED MEDICARE CHANGES: SAME-DAY CARE AT RISK IN 2027

Dear Patient,

At Delaware Orthopaedic Specialists, our priority has always been providing you with the highest quality care to keep you moving, healthy, and pain-free. Today we share urgent news regarding proposed federal changes that could significantly impact your healthcare.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently released its proposed federal rules for 2027, which outline deep funding cuts for physician reimbursements nationwide. As an independent orthopedic practice proudly serving our community, we are working to stand up for our patients. These cuts pose a direct threat to the timely, convenient care you deserve.

These proposed changes risk harming patient care in several critical ways:

- **Surgical Specialties Singled Out:** While almost all physicians face small baseline reductions due to expiring federal funds, the government has targeted our specialty for the most aggressive cuts in the entire healthcare system. Orthopedic surgery faces an overall 7% specialty-level funding cut, making it the hardest-hit field in this proposal.
- **Devaluing Life-Changing Joint Replacements:** Total hip and total knee replacements are among the most successful, life-changing procedures in modern medicine. Despite their immense value to your mobility, the new rule proposes a devastating reimbursement cut of up to 20% for joint replacement surgeries. These unprecedented reductions make it increasingly difficult for local independent practices to absorb rising operational costs while maintaining top-tier surgical care.
- **Penalties on Convenient, Same-Day Care:** Currently, if you come to our offices for an evaluation and need a same-day joint or cortisone injection to relieve your pain, we can perform it immediately. The new rule proposes an unfair 50% payment cut on same-day services. This forces practices to choose between absorbing unsustainable financial losses or requiring you to schedule, travel to, and pay a copay for a completely separate second appointment just to get routine pain relief.
- **Longer Wait Times:** Drastic, compounding cuts threaten the ability of independent medical groups to maintain current medical staffing levels. This inevitably leads to longer wait times for appointments and specialized procedures.

We firmly believe that healthcare policy should never compromise your face-to-face time with your surgeon, nor should it force you to make multiple, unnecessary trips to the clinic for routine, immediate pain relief.

How You Can Help

CMS is required by law to listen to public feedback before these rules are finalized. **The official public comment period is open until September 14, 2026.** Additionally, we encourage you to contact your congressional representatives to demand they protect patient access to independent specialized care.

1. Submit a Comment to CMS Online

You can submit your comments directly online through the official Regulations.gov CMS-2027-PFS Comment Portal.

2. Contact Your Federal Lawmakers

Call or write to your federal representatives to let them know that these medicare cuts will harm local healthcare access.



Scan here to leave a comment, or see the back of this letter to find your local lawmakers contact information.

Thank you for trusting our team with your health and mobility. Together, we will continue to fight for the resources necessary to give you the exceptional care you deserve.

Sincerely,
The Physicians and Staff at Delaware Orthopaedic Specialists

DELAWARE CONSTITUENTS:



Senator Christopher A. Coons
(302) 736-5601
coons.senate.gov



Senator Lisa Blunt Rochester
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Representative Sarah McBride
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PENNSYLVANIA CONSTITUENTS:



Senator John Fetterman
(215) 241-1090
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Senator Dave McCormick
(215) 405-9660
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U.S. House Switchboard

(202) 224-3121

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MARYLAND CONSTITUENTS:



Senator Chris Van Hollen
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NEW JERSEY CONSTITUENTS:



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Senator Andy Kim
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