



# ASE American Society of Echocardiography

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*Heart & Circulation Ultrasound Specialists*

The 2010 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) and Hospital Outpatient (HOPPS) rules have just been released, and ASE is very much aware that the PFS includes provisions that would mean an 11% cut for cardiology in general and a 42% cut for our primary code, 93306 (transthoracic echo with spectral and color flow Doppler). The HOPPS rule also includes reductions, although these are less severe; a memo outlining the impact for echocardiography in the hospital setting has been posted to the advocacy pages of the [ASE Website](#). The HOPPS rule even includes a glimmer of GOOD news; CMS has accepted ASE's request for increased payment for stress tests/stress echos performed in hospital outpatient departments.

To combat the impact of the Physician Fee Schedule changes, ASE is:

1. Partnering with ACC to do the research necessary and prepare a legislative campaign;
2. Working with imaging-related specialty groups to increase our legislative impact;
3. Engaging our grassroots network, both sonographers and physicians, to ask them to share our position with their legislators;
4. Working with a smaller group of member "key contacts" who have relationships with legislators and can help get our message heard.

You'll be hearing much more about this issue over the coming weeks. Please visit the Website often, and PLEASE consider helping with our grassroots efforts by contacting your legislators. A draft letter is available on the [ASE Legislative Action Center](#) so you can create an e-mail message quickly and easily to send to your Congressional representatives.