



American Society
of Echocardiography

MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT REFORM PHONE AND EMAIL SCRIPTS

STEP 1: INTRODUCTION

Hello, my name is [Your Name], and I am a [echocardiographer/ physician/ sonographer] at [Institution] in [City, State]. I'm a constituent of [Senator/Representative Last Name].

May I speak with the staffer handling health or Labor-HHS appropriations?

If they are not available, ask if you can leave a message.

STEP 2: CLEAR FUNDING ASK

I am calling to urge [Senator/Representative Last Name] to support comprehensive Medicare physician payment reform, including a permanent, inflation-based update tied to the Medicare Economic Index (MEI), such as in the Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act.

Stable, predictable updates are critical to preserving access to care for Medicare patients and preventing further cuts that threaten community practices.

STEP 3: PROVIDE 'THE WHY'

Pick one or two and expand with your personal experience.

Payment not keeping up with costs

- Unlike hospitals and other providers, physicians do not have a permanent inflationary update in Medicare, even as staffing, technology, and compliance costs continue to rise.
- Repeated cuts and small, temporary fixes make it difficult for practices to budget and invest in patient care.

Impact on patient access and workforce

- Ongoing payment instability forces some practices to limit Medicare patients, consolidate with larger systems, or close, especially in rural and underserved areas.
- This undermines continuity of care and makes it harder for seniors to find timely appointments with specialists, including cardiologists and echocardiographers.

Echocardiography and cardiovascular care

- Echocardiography services depend heavily on MPFS rates, so instability in physician payment directly affects our ability to maintain staff, upgrade equipment, and keep access open.
- Stable payment policy allows us to focus on quality, innovation, and patient outcomes rather than constant budget cuts.

MEI-linked update as a solution

- An annual update tied to the MEI would better reflect practice cost inflation and provide a consistent baseline for planning.
- It is a bipartisan, patient centered way to strengthen Medicare for both patients and providers.

STEP 4: CLOSE WITH A DIRECT ASK

Please support legislation that establishes a permanent, inflation-based update for Medicare physician payment, such as the Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act, and work with your colleagues on broader physician payment reform.

I would be happy to serve as a resource to your office on echocardiography and cardiovascular patient care.

Thank you for your time and for your work on behalf of Medicare patients.