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Anesthesiology Finance 101 – The 33% Problem

What is the 33% Problem?

Medicare payment rates for anesthesia services are inadequate due in large part to flaws in the unique formula used to calculate anesthesia rates, which is unlike the formula used for other physician payments. As a result, Medicare payment rates for anesthesia services persistently hover around 33% of average commercial payor rates, far lower than Medicare payment rates for other specialties, which average 80% of commercial payor rates.





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