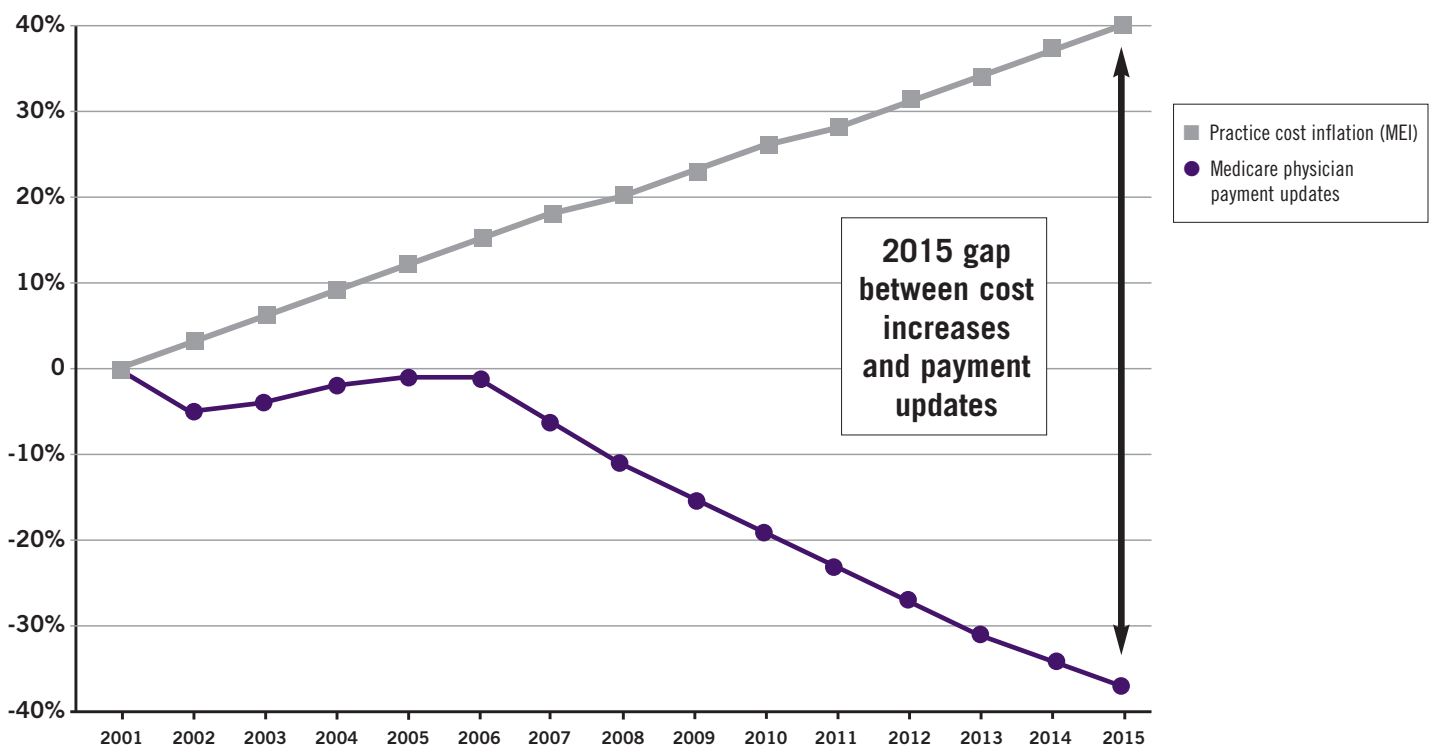


Future bleak for seniors' access to care during nine years of Medicare cuts

Medicare cuts physician reimbursement far below practice costs

Without congressional intervention, Medicare will slash physician payments about 40 percent over nine years beginning in 2007, while practice costs increase about 20 percent. These cuts come at a time when Medicare payments to physicians already lag behind the cost of caring for seniors.



Sources: Physician cost data is from the MEI, a conservative index of practice cost growth maintained by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Conversion factor updates are from the 2006 Medicare Trustees report and the CMS Office of the Actuary.

Congress must act to stop the 2007 Medicare physician payment cut and set Medicare payment updates that keep up with the cost of providing care.

