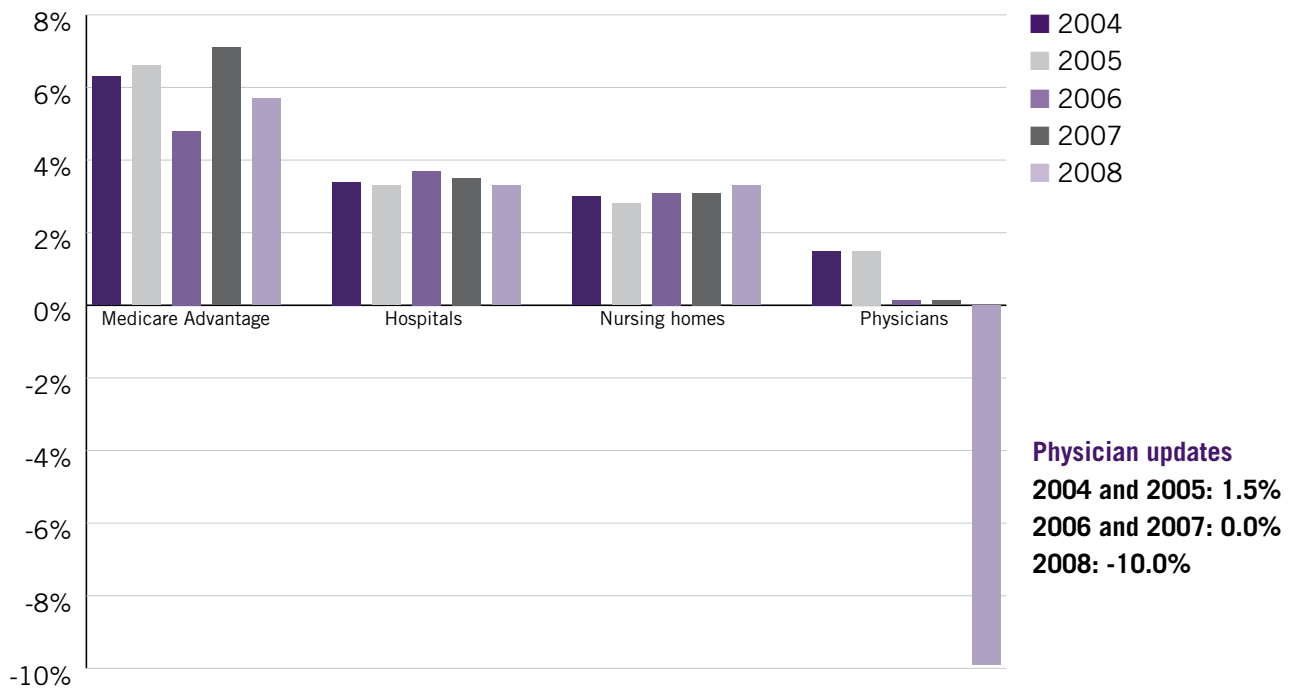


Physicians vs other providers: 2004-2008 Medicare payment updates

Physicians received below-inflation updates in 2004 and 2005, zero percent updates in 2006 and 2007, and they face a 10 percent cut in 2008, while other Medicare providers' payment updates continue to keep pace with their costs.



Sources: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services final announcements, proposed rules and 2007 Medicare Trustees report. Medicare Advantage updates are the annual updates to plan benchmarks, which may differ from average changes in Medicare Advantage plan payment rates.

Ask Congress to replace looming Medicare physician payment cuts with positive updates that reflect practice cost increases to ensure seniors' access to care.