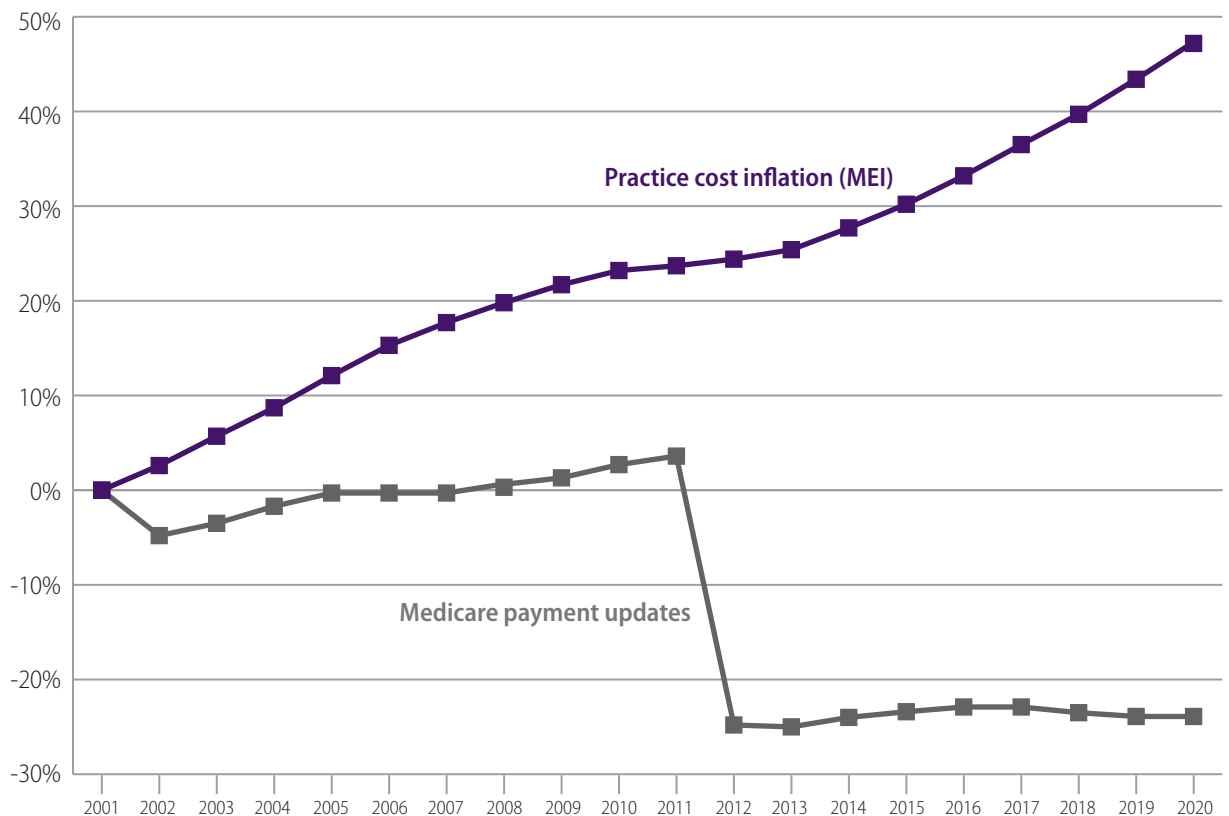




## Access to physicians in jeopardy as rates fall further behind cost increases

- Without congressional action on Medicare physician payment reform, physicians will face a pay cut of 27 percent, and pay will be held at that level while their practice costs continue to rise.
- This cut comes at a time when Medicare payments for physician services have been nearly frozen for a decade, while the cost of caring for patients has increased by more than 20 percent. After adjusting for inflation, average 2020 Medicare payment rates will be just half of what they were in 2001.
- Access problems would be widespread and affect millions of patients. The baby-boom generation has now started to enroll in Medicare, and the size of the Medicare population is expected to grow from 45 million in 2011 to 58 million by 2020. The 10 million military members and their families covered by the TRICARE program are also affected as, by law, TRICARE rates are limited to Medicare rates.



Source: 2011 Medicare Trustees Report, with adjustments based on 2012 Medicare physician payment schedule Final Rule. Prepared by American Medical Association, Economic and Health Policy Research, January 2012.