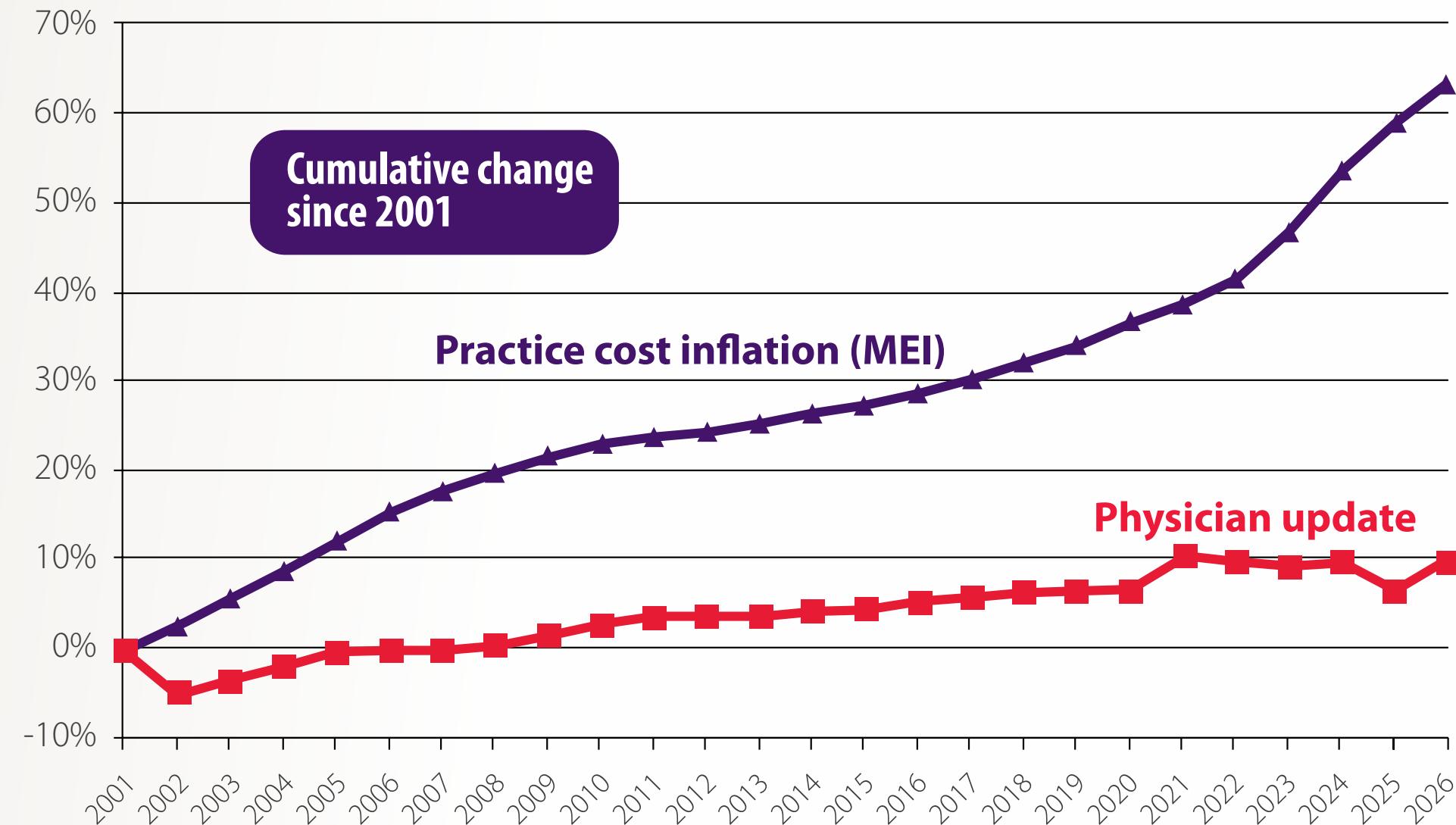


Medicare physician payment continues to fall further behind practice cost inflation

Medicare Physician Updates Compared to Inflation in Practice Costs (2001-2026)

Adjusted for inflation in practice costs, Medicare physician payment **declined 33%** from 2001 to 2026.



Sources: Federal Register, Medicare Trustees' Reports, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Market Basket Data, and Quality Payment Program (QPP) Experience Report.
Note: In 2026, qualified participants in an Advanced APM received a different update from non-qualified participants. Data from the PFS final rule and QPP report were used to construct a weighted average of the physician update for 2026.

Updated Jan. 2026

We need to fix Medicare physician payment **NOW.**