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## Talking points for discussing Medicare payment crisis with patients

The following talking points can help guide your conversation with patients about the Medicare Payment crisis:

- Practicing medicine is deeply personal, and the relationship I have with you and your family is what I value most. It's why I got into medicine.
- The time I spend understanding you, your family, interests, and occupation paints a fuller picture of your life to provide the best possible care.
- However, pressures in the current medical system are eroding our relationship in ways we shouldn't tolerate.
- Thanks to a Medicare payment system that prioritizes cost and cumbersome processes over time spent with you, the patient, I am spending more and more time on administrative tasks like arguing with insurance companies to get you the treatments you need.
- As Medicare and insurance companies decrease reimbursement for care, I need to see more patients in a day to cover the cost of running this office, including salaries for the nursing staff and medical assistants who help me provide your care.
- I have seen payments from Medicare stagnate while inflation has skyrocketed the costs to medical offices of providing patient care.
- For instance, this year, Medicare is cutting almost 3% from Medicare physician reimbursements, and this is the fifth consecutive year that Medicare has cut payments to doctors.
- Unfortunately, if these cuts continue, it may soon become impossible for me to continue serving our Medicare patients, like you. I do not want to, but I may be forced to reduce appointment times, limit the number of Medicare patients I see, or even stop accepting Medicare altogether, which would drastically reduce access to the quality care that Medicare recipients deserve.
- Congress needs to take this issue seriously and act before it's too late. No voice is more persuasive than a patient's.
- Will you please consider reaching out to your legislators and voicing your concern about these cuts. Your voice is powerful, and your support can make a real difference in ensuring that physicians like me can continue to care for Medicare patients and sustain practices that you rely on for high-quality health care.

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