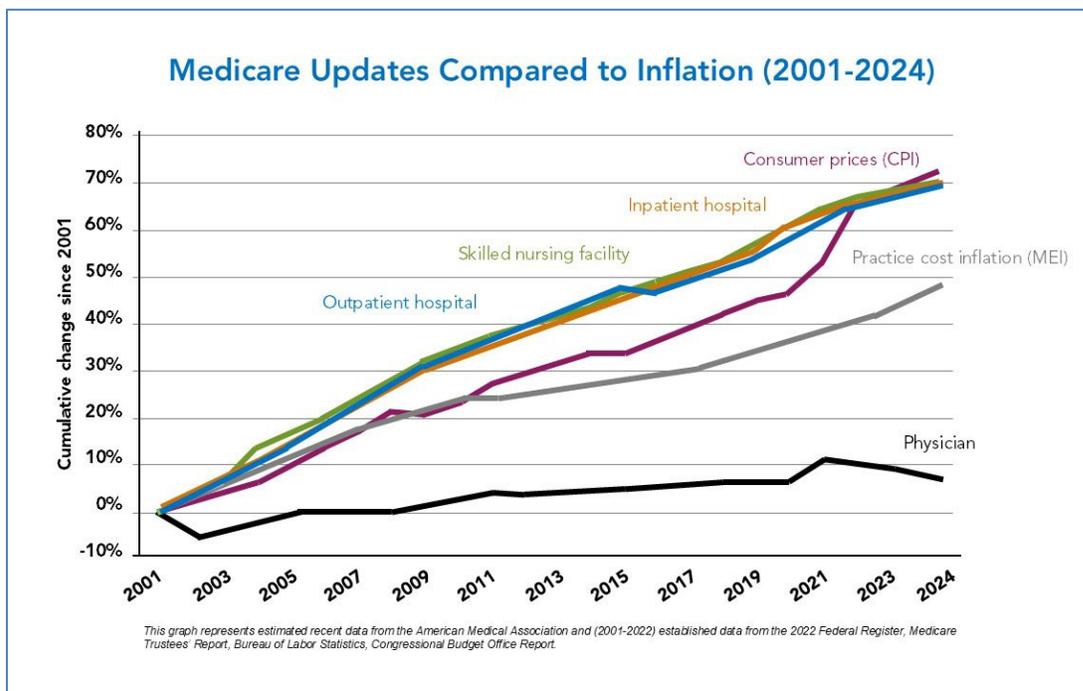


## 2026 Advocacy Agenda

The American Academy of Dermatology Association advocates before Congress on legislative issues and prioritizes work on those that are most pressing and impactful for our membership.

### 2026 Sole Federal Congressional Advocacy Priority: Medicare Physician Payment Reform

- To establish a positive annual inflation adjustment.
- To replace or eliminate budget neutrality requirements to the physician payment system.



Temporary fixes and continued cuts to the Medicare physician payment system are destabilizing dermatology practices and threatening patient access to care. While Congress included a temporary 2.5% physician payment increase in 2026, it failed to address the root problem: the lack of a long-term, sustainable solution.

Since 2001, the cost of operating a medical practice has increased 60%, while economy-wide inflation has risen 83%. Simultaneously, Medicare hospital facility updates increased by roughly 73%, significantly outpacing physician reimbursement. Adjusted for inflation in practice costs, Medicare physician reimbursement has declined 33% from 2001 to 2026.

The AADA demands that Congress provide physicians with positive, inflation-based reimbursement updates to ensure practices maintain financial stability and patients have continued access to care. It is also imperative Congress revise the budget neutrality policies to: (a) prevent erroneous utilization estimates from leading to inappropriate cuts; (b) clarify the types of services subject to budget neutrality adjustments; and (c) update the projected expenditure threshold triggering the budget neutrality adjustment, which has remained unchanged since 1992.