



Our Priority: PROTECT MEDICAID

Medicaid enrollment has significantly increased over the last decade, from 1.1 million individuals in 2014 to over 1.6 million in 2024. This increase has resulted in greater access to quality health care for our most vulnerable populations. But Medicaid payment cuts threaten the viability of the physician practices that provide this care, causing some physicians to no longer be able to care for those who rely on Medicaid services. Maryland must continue to address socioeconomic inequities and health disparities by ensuring proper payment rates to medical offices so they can continue to provide care to individuals in Medicaid.

For Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, MedChi successfully advocated for the State to pay E&M payment rates at 100% of Medicare. However, in mid-FY2025 (October 1, 2024), the State reduced Medicaid funding for E&M payment rates from 100% of Medicare to 98% of Medicare. As we look ahead to the FY2026 Budget, we must protect Maryland’s investment in Medicaid and restore E&M payment rates to 100% of Medicare to ensure that primary care services are consistently accessible for Maryland’s most vulnerable patients.

Issue	MedChi Advocacy
Increasing cost drivers, including workforce shortages and administrative burdens are putting physician practices at risk. These cost drivers and the time it takes to provide high-quality healthcare to patients affect whether a physician can participate in certain programs, like Medicaid.	Ensuring sufficient payment for E&M codes will support the ongoing financial viability of physician practices and enable them to continue to contract with Medicaid to ensure access to health care services for Maryland’s most disadvantaged patients.
Medicaid serves more than 1.6 million Marylanders, or about a quarter of Maryland residents. Half of those are children. The program provides access to care for low-income individuals and families.	Fewer Medicaid physicians means less access to quality care for Maryland’s most disadvantaged residents. MedChi advocates for Maryland to return to its policy of paying medical practices at 100% of Medicare for E&M payment rates so that physicians can continue to care for patients on Medicaid.

Call or e-mail [your legislators](#) and ask them to ensure that Medicaid is funded at 100% of Medicare.

Learn more at www.medchi.org/YourAdvocate.