

CMS Furthers Efforts to Improve Health Inequities in Its Proposed 2025 Hospital Outpatient and Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) Reimbursement Rates

Health Equity

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CMS's proposed annual hospital outpatient and ASC reimbursement rate schedule was published in July. [This year's proposed rule](#) includes initiatives to address disparities in care. Among the proposals are requiring 12 months of continuous eligibility for children enrolled in Medicaid/CHIP; expanding the hospital outpatient, rural emergency hospital, and ASC quality program measure sets to incorporate equity measures consistent with other provider types; and providing an add-on payment to the All-Inclusive Rate for certain Indian Health Service (IHS)/tribal facilities that will increase access to certain high-cost drugs; and supporting individuals returning to the community from incarceration through the elimination of Medicare enrollment barriers.