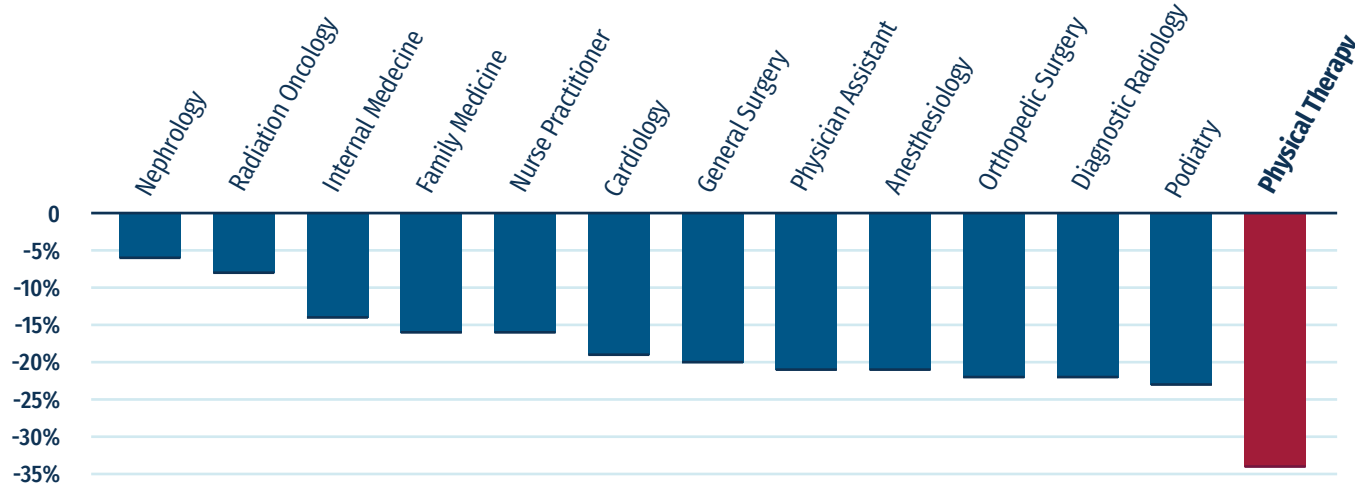


# NEW DATA SHOWS SEVERE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE PHYSICAL THERAPY PROFESSION

COVID-19 has taken an unparalleled financial toll on specialty care providers. Despite the enormous value of physical therapy services, a recent report demonstrates the severity of the pandemic's economic impact on the physical therapy profession. Through an analysis of total 2020 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) spending across more than 30 specialties, the report found that physical therapy experienced a staggering decline in Medicare reimbursement when compared with 2019 spending levels\* – the highest of any specialty.<sup>1</sup>

Recognizing the historic economic disruptions over last year, **now is not the time to further undermine specialty care with additional reimbursement reductions.**

## PERCENTAGE REDUCTION IN TOTAL MPFS SPENDING JANUARY-JUNE 2020



## FINANCIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL THERAPY, BY THE NUMBERS:

Physical therapy experienced a **34% reduction** in expected MPFS spending—the highest percentage drop of any specialty in percentage terms between January – June 2020.

This decrease represents a **\$706 million drop** in expected Medicare spending on physical therapy services during the first six months of 2020—the second largest shortfall of any specialty in dollar terms.

Absent additional Congressional action, the physical therapy profession will incur a **full 9% reimbursement reduction** under the MPFS by 2024 – among the highest cuts of any healthcare specialty.

## WE URGE POLICYMAKERS TO PROTECT PHYSICAL THERAPY & THE MILLIONS OF PATIENTS WE SERVE BY:

1. Blocking the 3.5% payment cut in the Proposed MPFS Rule for CY2022, and
2. Investing an additional \$3 billion in the MPFS for 2022 to mitigate expected reductions to the Medicare conversion factor.



\*Impacts are measured by comparing actual and expected 2020 spending. Expected 2020 spending is defined as 2019 spending adjusted by the year-over-year rate of change prior to the pandemic (spending for the first eight weeks of 2020 compared to the same period in 2019).

<sup>1</sup>Gillis, K. (2021, March 03). New analysis SHOWS Medicare spending patterns upended BY COVID-19. Retrieved May 05, 2021, from <https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/press-releases/new-analysis-shows-medicare-spending-patterns-upended-covid-19>