

In common with all health care professionals today, medical physicists are faced with payment reductions for services and cutbacks in manpower. Yet, a stable medical physics profession is essential for high quality patient care. Stability requires not only financial security for medical physicists, but also a manageable workload. To secure a future for our profession, medical physicists need to understand the complex issues related to reimbursement for patient care. This presentation will provide an overall review of the financial aspects of medical physics. Following a brief historical summary, the current mechanisms for reimbursement will be discussed. CPT Codes, RVU's and other acronyms affecting reimbursement will be described, as well as the various models for health maintenance organizations and their effect on the medical physicist. The impact of licensure and the increasing number of training programs will be discussed. Finally, proactive strategies for securing the medical physics profession will be outlined.

Educational objectives:

1. Definition of a professional in health care.
2. How medical physics services and positions are funded.
3. Potential strategies for securing reimbursement for medical physics services.