Thirteen cuts to Medicare reimbursements for medical imaging since 2006 have hurt patient access and undercut the benefits of early detection. Additional reimbursement cuts and prior authorization proposals will create more barriers to life-saving medical imaging services that could threaten seniors’ health and well-being.

**DEEP CUTS** Imaging spending and utilization has declined.

- Medicare per beneficiary spending on medical imaging decreased by 16.7% since 2006.¹
- Medicare utilization of medical imaging has declined by 5.12% in 2009.¹
- Payments for some services, like MRIs of the brain, have been cut by more than 60%.¹

**PRIOR AUTHORIZATION & COVERAGE DELAYS**

- Nearly two-thirds (63%) of physicians typically wait several days to receive preauthorization from an insurer for tests and procedures.²
- More than half (52%) of physicians report appealing 80% or more of insurer rejections on first-time preauthorization requests for tests and procedures.²
- Nearly half of physicians (43%) report that first-time preauthorization requests are “often” reviewed by an insurer representative without medical training.²
- In a study of 4,360 Patient Advocacy Foundation imaging cases from June 2007 to June 2011, patients waited an average of 7.5 working days for coverage decisions for scans.³

**PATIENT HEALTH THREATENED**

Further cuts to advanced medical imaging reimbursements will make it harder for doctors—and their patients—to access lifesaving technologies.

- Decreased Access to Mammography
- By January 2012, there were 214 fewer mammography facilities and 1,256 fewer scanners.⁴

**FOR EXAMPLE:**

- 800,000 fewer DXA bone density screenings between 2007 and 2009.⁴
- Those tests may have prevented approximately 12,000 fractures.⁴

**SOURCES**

4. http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/30/12/2362.abstract
Innovative medical imaging technologies are allowing doctors to detect, diagnose, stage and treat patients earlier than ever before. These imaging innovations also provide more precise and personalized detection, lower costs for patients and the healthcare system and save lives.

**More Precise and More Personalized Detection**

- **CT scans** can reduce lung cancer deaths by 20% in high-risk populations.¹
- **PET scans** have changed the course of treatment in more than 36% of cases.²
- **MRI scans & ultrasound combined with annual mammograms** resulted in higher breast cancer detection in women with risk factors.³

**Proven Cost Saver**

- **Every $1 on inpatient imaging = $3 in total savings**.⁴

**$385 saves 1 day in hospital**

Every $385 spent on imaging decreases hospital stay by one day = $1,172 per day in savings.⁴

**Reducing Mortality**

- **CT scans** reduced unnecessary surgeries for elderly patients with suspected appendicitis and lowered mortality by 3%.⁴

40% of the decline in cancer mortality is due to diagnostic imaging innovation.⁷

**Sources**