Reform Radiation Oncology Payment

...because RO has been cut more than any other specialty, even though it’s a high-value, quality, effective cancer treatment.

Of the 1.9 million cancer diagnoses annually, more than half of patients will receive radiation therapy. Medicare spends less on radiation oncology than it does on just three cancer drugs.

In the face of ongoing cuts and rising costs due to inflation, patient access to care is threatened.

Under Medicare’s Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS), radiation oncology has been cut more than 20% over the last 10 years.

Practice costs are up 25% on average since the start of the pandemic.

93% of ASTRO members say their practice is facing staff shortages.

This leads to reduced hours, fewer appointments, treatment delays, reduced wraparound services like patient navigation, lower morale, increased burnout and “constantly feeling like you are letting patients down.”

Cuts impact patients

Is your practice facing staff shortages?

- Yes, and they’ve gotten worse compared to last year, 80%
- Yes, but they’re improving compared to last year, 13%
- No, 7%

What contributes most to increased costs?

- Professional staffing
- Supplies/equipment
- Rent/facilities
- Other

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- Professional staffing
- Administrative support/Prior auth
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