

**Table VI.6****Medicare Participating Physician Program**

Participation Status	Number of Physicians <sup>1</sup>	Participation Status				
		January 2008	January 2007	January 2006	January 2005	January 2004
Participating	883,316	94.9%	93.6%	93.3%	92.0%	91.9%
Billing Medicare	930,474	---	---	---	---	---

<sup>1</sup> Includes M.D.s, D.O.s, Limited License Practitioners, and Non-Physician Practitioners.

NOTES: The participating physician program was originally enacted as a part of the 1984 Deficit Reduction Act (DEFRA). Congress provided additional incentives through the 1986 Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA). CMS wrote to physicians to explain the benefits of participation beginning January 1, 1989. Participation counts reflect physicians who are participating in at least one practice setting. For example, a physician who is participating in private practice but not in his group practice is counted as participating.

SOURCE: CMS/OFM

December 2008

**Table VI.7****Medicare Assigned Claims  
Selected Fiscal Years**

Fiscal Year	Net Assignment Rate <sup>1</sup>
1975	51.9
1980	51.4
1985	67.7
1990	80.9
1991	82.5
1992	85.4
1993	89.2
1994	92.1
1995	94.2
1996	95.6
1997	96.5
1998	97.2
1999	97.5
2000	97.8
2001	98.1
2002	98.3
2003	98.5
2004	98.6
2005	98.8
2006	99.0
2007	99.1
2008	99.2

<sup>1</sup> The net assignment rate is the percentage of assigned claims to total assigned/unassigned claims received. If a physician or supplier agrees to accept assignment, he or she agrees not to charge more than the Medicare approved fee for a particular service.

SOURCE: CMS/OFM

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