

Physician Practice Information (PPI) survey

May 21, 2012 MEI TAP Meeting

PPI Survey

- Jointly funded by CMS, Specialty Societies, AMA
- Fielded in 2007/2008 – collected 2006 practice expense
- Cost \$\$\$

Primary Purpose

- To update PE/HR data used in calculating practice expense RVUs in the Medicare physician fee schedule
- To update the MEI weights
- AMA had not fielded a practice expense survey since 2001 (had been an annual survey)

The physician sample

- Drawn from the AMA Masterfile (includes both member and non-members)
- Limited to non-federal, non-resident, patient care physicians
- Stratified by specialty
- (Other provider groups were also surveyed – eg, optometrists, podiatrists)

Data collected

- Practice expense
- Detailed hours
- Basic practice characteristics (practice size, setting)

Data collection

- Multi-mode – telephone, web, fax
- Small incentive payment
- These were both changes from AMA's previous surveys (SMS) which were telephone surveys with no incentive payment

Other changes from previous AMA surveys

- New expense questions
- Some changes to wording of existing expense questions
- Respondents allowed to provide expenses at the individual, department (specialty), or practice level
- Employee physicians were asked practice expense questions

Expense questions on PPI survey

- Professional liability insurance premium
- Office expense
- Non-physician payroll
 - Payroll clerical staff
 - Payroll staff who can bill independently*
- Employee physician payroll
- Medical supply expense
 - Separately billable medical supply expense*
- Drug expense*
 - Separately billable drug expense*
- Medical equipment expense
- Other professional expense

Results

- 7403 total respondents
- 5865 physician respondents
- 12% response rate
- 39% of physicians were employees

MEI Tabulations for CMS

- Mean expenses, net income and benefits
- MEI tabulations limited to:
 - Self-employed
 - Provided expense information at the individual level
- Physician data provided to CMS May 2009
 - 2385 respondents
 - 1712 with responses to all expense and income questions

Changes in expenses, 1998-2006

- Office expense increased 120% (10% avg)
- Non-physician payroll increased 47% (5% avg)
- Medical supply expense increased 81% (8% avg)
- Other expense increased 5% (1% avg)
- Net income increased 18% (2% avg)
- PLI premiums increased 91% (8% avg)

After PPI

- AMA hasn't conducted practice expense survey since PPI
- No current AMA plans to collect practice expense data