COVID-19 FINANCIAL IMPACT ON MEDICAL PRACTICES

Medical group practices of all sizes and specialties have felt the direct and indirect financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Whether treating patients on the front lines or facing a massive decrease in patient volume, practices are struggling to stay afloat – and many fear that this is only the beginning. MGMA is advocating tirelessly for Congress and the Administration to support group practices during this public health emergency.

97% OF PRACTICES HAVE EXPERIENCED A NEGATIVE FINANCIAL IMPACT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY RELATED TO COVID-19.

A significant number of medical practices have already been forced to layoff and furlough staff in response to the financial challenges of COVID-19. Many who have not yet lay off or furloughed staff will consider doing so if conditions persist over the next 30 days. “All doctors and administrative staff have deferred their salaries during this time,” noted a small independent practice in Mississippi specializing in pain management. “We have laid off most of our staff except 5 people.”

ON AVERAGE, PRACTICES REPORT A 55% DECREASE IN REVENUE AND 60% DECREASE IN PATIENT VOLUME SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS.

Not only has 70% of our revenue disappeared, but our physicians are still working every day, exposing themselves to risks, taking care of patients, and taking care of their employees by continuing to pay them while they have taken over a 50% pay cut.

– An independent anesthesiology practice in Alabama

In addition to the decrease in volume and revenue, there are increases in expenses related to COVID, such as technology to support telehealth needs and remote providers/staff and PPE (i.e. procedure masks are now $1 or more per mask, and we are using large quantities when we rarely used to use any).

– An independent rheumatology practice in Texas

Our endoscopy procedures have dropped from 300/week to 8/week.

– An independent gastroenterology practice

We have seen a 70% decrease in surgeries and 33% decrease in office visits.

– An independent multispecialty practice

This survey was conducted April 7-8, 2020, with a total of 724 applicable responses. Approximately 75% of respondents are part of independent medical practices and employ less than 50 full-time-equivalent (FTE) physicians.