Medicare Slashes DXA Reimbursement by Over 70%

Since 2006, office reimbursements have declined 72% while hospital reimbursements have increased 15%.

Medicare Cuts Lead to Loss of Over 11,000 Trained DXA Physicians

Since 2008, office-based DXA providers have declined by over 50%; a loss of 11,580 trained physicians. Over the same period, hospital-based providers have not increased.
Less Access to DXA Leads to 7 Million Fewer Women Tested

DXA testing rates increased from 1998-2008. After Medicare cut DXA payments, testing began to decline in 2008. Had the growth in DXA testing continued, an additional 7 million women would have received a DXA test.

DXA Testing Shifts to Hospital Setting at 3 times the Cost ($119 vs $39)

Due to cuts in reimbursement, DXA testing in the office setting have been declining for a decade. Recently, hospital-based scanning has increased, but at three times the reimbursement cost.
The CDC NHANES study indicates that 25.1% of women over 65 have osteoporosis, yet only 14.5% of Medicare women have been diagnosed. In 2019, 39% of expected osteoporosis cases are undiagnosed, leaving 1.78 million women undiagnosed and untreated.

Twenty years of declining hip fracture rates stopped in 2012. Had it continued, there would have been 73,630 fewer hip fractures over 8 years saving Medicare over $3 billion and avoiding 16,051 additional deaths.

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Watson Policy Analysis, Carrier 5% SAF and Inpatient 100% SAF, analysis by Peter M. Steven, PhD