

CITIZENS' COUNCIL FOR HEALTH FREEDOM
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Health Freedom Minute

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Orthopedists Drop Out of Medicare

A new study finds 341 orthopedic surgeons have opted out of Medicare. The opt-outs have happened in regions with higher numbers of Medicare-eligible individuals and those that provide lower reimbursement rates.

Most Americans have no idea how Medicare reimbursement works, but with Medicare cuts planned for 2027, and as more doctors refuse to take Medicare, they are going to find out.

Medicare payments have declined over decades. To keep senior access to orthopedic surgery, Medicare could pay surgeons more, or Congress could give seniors cash to leave Medicare and buy private medical indemnity insurance. There are already several cash-based orthopedists on The Wedge at JointheWedge.com.

"Remain-In or Opt-Out: An Economic Evaluation of Medicare Opt-Outs in Orthopaedic Surgery," Branden Lee and Adam S. Levin, Journal of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, October 15, 2026: https://www.ovid.com/jnls/jaaos/abstract/10.5435/jaaos-d-25-01405~remain-in-or-opt-out-an-economic-evaluation-of-medicare?redirectionsource=fulltextview

Presented daily by Twila Brase, President and Co-founder
Citizens' Council for Health Freedom.

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