

Leveling Incomes

2005 Medical Group Compensation & Financial Survey shows balanced increases for physicians in all specialties.

MOST PHYSICIAN SPECIALTIES SAW increases at or just above the rate of inflation in 2004 according to a survey of members of the American Medical Group Association (AMGA). Primary care specialties saw increases of 6 percent to 8.8 percent, after several years of declining compensation or negligible increases.

The AMGA mailed the survey to more than 2,600 medical groups across the country in February 2005. RSM McGladrey received 197 valid responses, representing approximately 34,000 providers and published the results in August.

During 2004, the survey found the three specialties that experienced the largest increases in compensation were general surgery (8.89 percent), pediatrics & adolescent (8.76 percent), and hematology & oncology (8.52 percent). Primary care physicians in family medicine and internal medicine also saw healthy increases after several years of negligible increases or decreases: family medicine (6.31 percent) and internal medicine (7.57 percent). Three specialties which had seen some of the largest increases in 2003 received among the lowest increases for 2004: Cardiology increased by 0.07 percent,

cardiac/thoracic surgery by 1.13 percent, and gastroenterology by 1.07 percent.

“We are gratified to see that primary care specialties are finally seeing increases,” said Donald W. Fisher, PhD, the president and chief executive officer of the American Medical Group Association. “This year, however, increases across the board were below 9 percent, after years of sharp increases in certain high-demand specialties. As compensation increases slow, the cost of practicing medicine continues to rise.”

AMGA, headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, represents medical groups, including large integrated health-care delivery systems. To purchase the complete survey, go to www.amga.org or contact Stefan Rozga at 703-838-0033, ext. 326 or srozga@amga.org. ■

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Ratio of compensation to productivity

The compensation to productivity ratio is the proportion of compensation related to gross charges for a provider. (The physician receives the named percentage of the gross charges he produced.) The value is a median of computed ratios for all physicians reporting both compensation and gross charges.

Specialty	Compensation Percent
Anesthesiology	35.2
Cardiology (General)	25.8
Cardiac & Thoracic Surgery	25.2
Dermatology	26.2
Diag Radiology (Interv'l)	27.5
Diag Radiology (Non-interv'l)	23.0
Emergency Care	31.1
Endocrinology	40.1
Family Medicine	33.1
Gastroenterology	24.0
General Surgery	26.6
Gynecology & Obstetrics	28.9
Hematology/Oncology	48.9
Hospitalist	48.4
Hypertension & Nephrology	31.0
Infectious Disease	38.6
Internal Medicine	34.8
Neurology	33.4
Neurological Surgery	22.3
Occ/Environmental Med	48.1
Ophthalmology	22.1
Orthopaedic Surgery	26.9
Otolaryngology	25.8
Pathology	28.3
Peds/Adolescent Med	31.5
Psychiatry	44.2
Pulmonary Disease	33.8
Rheumatology	35.8
Urgent Care	36.3
Urology	25.6

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MEDIAN PHYSICIAN COMPENSATION

By geographic region



SPECIALTY	EAST	WEST	SOUTH	NORTH
Anesthesiology	\$275,000	\$298,000	\$334,200	\$334,033
Cardiology (General)	264,900	343,646	386,957	369,566
Cardiac & Thoracic Surgery	387,298	343,050	421,240	469,860
Dermatology	225,000	289,409	322,138	263,201
Diag Radiology (Interv'l)	345,860	410,000	537,942	410,250
Diag Radiology (Non-interv'l)	330,000	350,224	383,319	383,256
Emergency Care	200,327	228,814	225,905	239,984
Endocrinology	166,675	185,000	177,665	201,241
Family Medicine	141,225	166,750	163,417	168,488
Gastroenterology	263,594	325,698	325,033	306,994
General Surgery	258,028	275,336	301,761	330,903
Gynecology & Obstetrics	232,276	240,118	258,756	275,419
Hematology/Oncology	207,300	261,004	293,043	255,007
Hospitalist	153,515	175,084	183,775	171,913
Hypertension & Nephrology	186,683	238,750	253,228	214,751
Infectious Disease	161,206	179,402	175,000	203,640
Internal Medicine	158,824	171,246	167,740	170,511
Neurology	180,882	199,614	204,000	201,241
Neurological Surgery	352,352	495,266	553,500	465,006
Occ/Environmental Med	157,611	182,159	173,541	187,470
Ophthalmology	232,863	254,743	276,280	304,994
Orthopaedic Surgery	336,163	374,942	390,270	393,249
Otolaryngology	250,390	282,966	303,011	320,007
Pathology	245,422	247,764	252,000	268,500
Peds/Adolescent Med	155,916	168,301	191,511	168,609
Psychiatry	155,673	197,021	168,160	177,000
Pulmonary Disease	199,831	249,865	225,400	228,359
Rheumatology	153,000	192,026	181,525	193,301
Urgent Care	179,300	179,357	180,395	173,683
Urology	270,493	302,600	351,585	358,008

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