



The challenges we face that will restrict patient access to cardiac care:

1. **Elimination of the in-office ancillary services exemption** under the Stark law. This would prevent physicians from referring patients to practice-owned MR, CT and PET equipment (House)
2. **Increase in the equipment utilization assumption rate** and changes in practice expense allotment that would cut technical component imaging reimbursement for CT, PET, MR and potentially nuclear and echo by 25-42 percent (Senate, House and proposed PFS)
3. **Influx of patients** requiring cardiac care under “insurance for all” scenario, creating major access issues for patients **at the same time reimbursement is being slashed** and perhaps forcing closure of outlying offices and other service reductions (Congressional, Administration proposed reforms)
4. **Limitations on physicians’ ability to decide what their patients need** for diagnosis and treatment via Radiology Benefits Managers and comparative effectiveness mandates