

Payment Reductions Jeopardize Access to Care for Patients

An Audiologist's and SLP's ability to provide consistent access to care for their patients and maintain their business is threatened by payment reductions from all payer sources (e.g., Medicare, Medicaid, Private Payers).

ACTION NEEDED

Payment cuts are imposed across payers and take a variety of forms.

Of the nearly 4,000 survey respondents...

52% experienced Medicare Reductions

37.6% experienced Medicaid Reductions

48% experienced Private Insurer Reductions

52.7% experienced Prior Authorization Denial

29.4% experienced Post-Payment Review Denial

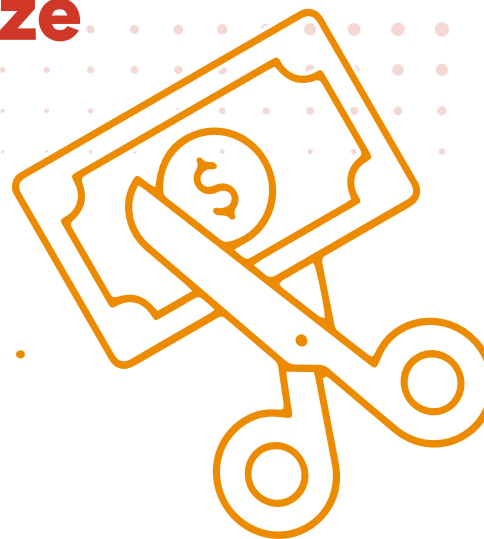
Survey respondents shared that they **increased their fee schedule rates** to maintain viability, which has an increased **detrimental impact on uninsured patients** or those paying out of pocket.

Resources:

- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (April 2023). ASHA Member Survey, *Insurance Reimbursement Reductions*.
- Warren, S. (22, October 2022). *Insurance Payment Cuts Threaten Members' Jobs, Patients' Access to Care*. [*The ASHA Leader*](#).

AUDIOLOGISTS specialize in preventing and assessing hearing and balance disorders as well as providing audiologic treatment, including hearing aids.

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS (SLPs) identify, assess, and treat speech, language, cognitive-communication, and swallowing disorders.



Major Impact on Audiologists and SLPs is Significant



24% reduced clinical staff



17.5% reduced clinical staff hours



37% took on additional employment

About Us

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 234,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology assistants; and students.

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