

Medicare Participating Physician Program

Participation Status	Number of Physicians ¹	Participation Status			
		January 2003	January 2002	January 2001	January 2000
Participating	846,423	91.5%	89.3%	88.7%	88.3%
Billing Medicare	925,508				

¹ Includes M.D.s, D.O.s, limited license practitioners, and non-physician practitioners.

NOTES: The participating physician program was originally enacted as a part of the 1984 Deficit Reduction Act (DEFRA). Congress provided additional incentives through the 1986 Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA). CMS wrote to physicians to explain the benefits of participation beginning January 1, 1989. Participation counts reflect physicians who are participating in at least one practice setting. For example, a physician who is participating in private practice but not in his group practice is counted as participating.

SOURCE: CMS/OFM