

## With looming ACA uncertainty, budget exercise necessary

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(HealthDay)—Constructing a budget for 2014 is critical for physicians even with the uncertainties surrounding the Affordable Care Act, according to an article published Nov. 10 in *Medical Economics*.

Jill Franks, C.P.A., a principal in Rehmann's Healthcare Advisors Group in Saginaw, Mich., explains how physicians can still create a practical budget for 2014, despite the economic uncertainties of [health care reform](#).

Franks says that there are five basic steps to preparing a budget. They include analyzing revenue activity by reviewing one's most commonly billed codes; identifying payers and assessing payer mix and [reimbursement rates](#); reviewing payer contracts to ensure reimbursements match contractual adjustments per contract terms; examining the office schedule, including booking, wait times, and length

of appointments; and making necessary adjustments to the fee schedule.

"While many think that preparing a budget means copying last year's numbers, increasing revenue by 5 percent and decreasing expenses by 10 percent, the reality should be much different," Franks writes. "And so will the results."

**More information:** [More Information](#)

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