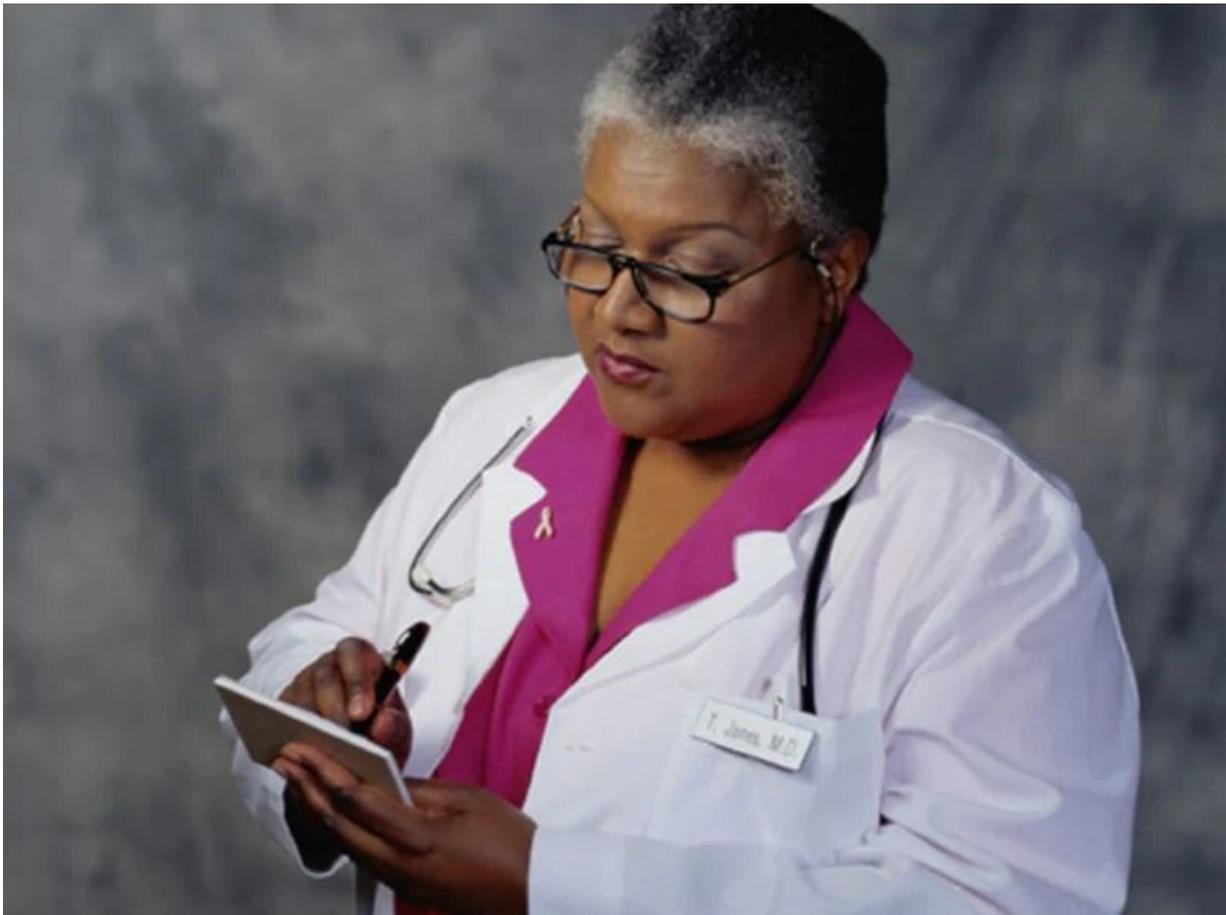


# Female radiation oncologists receive lower Medicare reimbursement

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(HealthDay)—Female radiation oncologists submit fewer Medicare

charges, bill using fewer unique codes, and receive lower Medicare payments than male radiation oncologists, according to a study published online March 22 in *JAMA Network Open*.

Luca Valle, M.D., of the University of California in Los Angeles, and colleagues performed a retrospective cohort study using the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Physician and Other Supplier Public Use File to evaluate differences in productivity, breadth of practice, and payments based on sex among 4,393 [radiation](#) oncologists (1,133 women and 3,260 men) who bill Medicare in nonfacility-based and facility-based practices.

In nonfacility-based practices, female radiation oncologists submitted a mean 1,051 fewer charges than their male counterparts. Also, [female physicians](#) earned \$143,610 less in revenue and used a mean of 1.32 fewer unique billing codes. In facility-based practices, female physicians submitted a mean 423 fewer charges, earned a mean \$26,735 less in revenue, and submitted a mean of 1.28 fewer unique billing codes compared with male [radiation oncologists](#).

"Understanding how sex is associated with physician activity and reimbursement in oncology is critical to moving toward a more equitable profession, whereas failure to identify and address potential barriers to economic advancement within [radiation oncology](#) may collectively weaken the specialty by further discouraging women from entering the field," the authors write.

Two authors disclosed financial ties to pharmaceutical, medical device, and insurance companies.

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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