

# Medicaid pays 75 percent of what Medicare pays for spine surgeries

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(HealthDay)—There are large disparities between Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement rates for eight spine procedures, according to a study published online Sept. 26 in *Spine*.

David S. Casper, M.D., from the Rothman Institute at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, and colleagues examined online data to compare differences in reimbursement for eight spine procedures between Medicaid and regional Medicare rates.

The researchers found that the average Medicaid reimbursement was 78.4 percent of that for Medicare. There was significant Medicaid variation between states (38.8 to 140 percent of Medicare for the combined eight procedures). Twenty states provided

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