COVID-19 and the CMS Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) changes will continue to impact productivity data in market surveys in 2022 and beyond. To accommodate the use of the 2020 and 2021 PFS wRVU scales, the SullivanCotter 2022 Physician Compensation and Productivity Survey Report includes two benchmarks to report wRVUs, TCC per wRVU and collections per wRVU.

Year-over-year TCC per wRVU rate changes highlight the impact of the pandemic on survey data

TCC per wRVU rates dropped due to a combination of increased productivity and consistent TCC levels

Median TCC Per wRVU by Specialty Area

Physician compensation continues to vary by locale

Physician Compensation Differences*
TCC Compared to National Median

Differences by Locale:

Urban: 98%

Suburban: 103%

Rural: 111%

The survey also reports moderate variation by region:

North Central: 102%
Northeast: 95%
West: 104%
South Central: 100%
Southeast: 99%

*Please note: Percentages represent an average of the median from 2020-2022.

Key Takeaways

1. 2022 survey data is impacted by the industry’s gradual adoption of the 2021 PFS wRVU values. The 2022 survey includes two wRVU and TCC per wRVU values.

2. In 2022, work RVU productivity recovered to pre-pandemic levels for many specialties; as a result, TCC per wRVU ratios decreased.

3. Quality incentive compensation continues to be relatively modest (< 10%); the use of panel size in primary care compensation plan design continues to increase.

4. The 2023 PFS final rule includes another round of significant E&M wRVU value changes in hospital and skilled nursing settings and a resulting Medicare conversion factor cut.

5. Use 2022 market survey data with caution; in particular, reported TCC per RVU ratios may continue to be volatile for many specialties.