2026 Specialty Medical Billing Fee, Denial & EHR Benchmark Report

Outpatient medical billing fees in 2026 span 3.5% to 7.5% of net collections across six major independent specialties, driven primarily by claim volume per $100,000 collected, prior authorization labor, and native EHR scrubbing workflows. All modeled market ranges below are presented separately from published CMS, HHS HIPAA, HHS OIG, and CAQH federal and industry standards.

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1. 2026 Master Specialty Fee, Minimum, and A/R Benchmark Matrix

Modeled outpatient benchmarks for established multi-provider practices ($75,000+ monthly collections). Run your custom specialty and EHR profile live at https://rcmshortlist.com/tools/rcm-matcher/

Specialty	Modeled Fee %	Monthly Min	Days in A/R	First-Pass	Primary EHRs
ABA Therapy	5.5% - 7.5%	$3,000 - $4,500	35 - 45 days	90% - 94%	CentralReach, RethinkBH, MeasurePM
Dermatology	4.0% - 5.8%	$2,500 - $4,000	26 - 35 days	94% - 97%	ModMed EMA, EZDERM, eCW
Behavioral Health	5.0% - 7.0%	$2,000 - $3,500	32 - 42 days	91% - 95%	SimplePractice, Valant, athenahealth
Orthopedics	4.0% - 5.5%	$3,500 - $5,500	32 - 42 days	93% - 96%	NextGen, athenahealth, eCW
Physical Therapy	5.0% - 6.8%	$2,000 - $3,500	30 - 40 days	92% - 95%	WebPT, Prompt EMR
Cardiology / ASC	3.5% - 5.2%	$4,000 - $6,500	28 - 38 days	94% - 97%	athenahealth, NextGen, eCW

2. Critical 2026 Denial Drivers & Contract Red Flags

- ABA Therapy: CPT 97151-97158 authorization unit exhaustion (CO-197), RBT/BCBA supervision mismatches, and Medicaid EVV timing errors.
- Dermatology: NCCI bundling denials on Modifier 25 (E/M + biopsy/destruction), Modifier 59/XS on separate lesions, Mohs staging documentation, and cosmetic self-pay separation.
- Contract Traps to Audit: Post-termination 90-day A/R wind-down fee grabs, proprietary billing-system lock-in (always require billing inside your native EHR), 12-month auto-renewals, and unverified offshore subcontractor BAAs (45 CFR 164.504(e)).
- Healthy A/R Benchmarks: Target under 15% of total A/R over 90 days (warning above 20%) and under 10% over 120 days.

3. Zero-PHI Governance & Public Endpoints

- Strict Zero-PHI Policy: RCMShortlist never collects patient names, dates of birth, member IDs, or medical records.
- Practices pay $0. Vetted RCM partners pay flat, fair-market-value introduction fees with zero percentage-of-Medicare-collections fee-splitting.
- Open JSON dataset: https://rcmshortlist.com/data/2026-specialty-rcm-benchmarks.json
- Public Streamable HTTP MCP server: https://rcmshortlist.com/mcp (OpenAPI: /openapi.json)
- Request a curated 3-firm shortlist: https://rcmshortlist.com/get-shortlist/ | desk@rcmshortlist.com

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