SCMR Grassroots Alert – Voice Opposition to Additional Cuts in Medical Imaging Reimbursement!

As Congress and President Obama continue efforts to negotiate a deficit reduction package and a vote on increasing the nation’s debt ceiling, cuts in reimbursement for diagnostic imaging services remain targeted as a “pay for” in a comprehensive package of spending cuts.

SCMR urges you to contact your U.S. Representative and two U.S. Senators TODAY and urge them to reject proposals to impose additional payment cuts and restrictions on access to medical imaging services. Tell your lawmakers that advanced diagnostic imaging services have sustained severe regulatory and legislative payment cuts over the last few years. Tell them that the volume of advanced diagnostic imaging services provided to Medicare beneficiaries has slowed tremendously, and in fact grew only 0.1 percent between 2008 and 2009. Emphasize the fact that medical imaging detects disease early, and therefore saves Medicare program dollars by avoiding delayed diagnoses and the onset of more advanced disease states.

Most importantly, convey how continued cuts in medical imaging reimbursement will have a negative impact on patient access to needed imaging services in YOUR community.

Even though the U.S. House voted on a balanced budget and spending cuts measure yesterday, all options remain on the table. The Senate has yet to act, and the President has already stated he would veto the House plan. The key is to ensure that imaging cuts are not included in the final measure!

To contact your U.S. Representative or two U.S. Senators, call the Capitol Switchboard at 202 224 3121 and ask to be connected to the office. Then ask to speak with the Health Legislative Assistant to convey your message on imaging cuts.

OR, if you prefer email:

- Go to www.house.gov, in the upper left hand corner click the “Write Your Representative” icon

- Submit the information requested and click “Contact My Representative”

- You may write a message to your Representative from this contact page, OR

- Call the Washington, DC office of your U.S. Representative and ask to speak with the health legislative assistant.

To contact your two U.S. Senators:

- Visit www.senate.gov, in the upper right hand corner click the drop down menu to select your state under “Find Your Senators”

- The information for your two U.S. Senators will appear, click the contact form to submit your concerns or click on the office link to obtain a phone number and call to speak with the health legislative assistant.

Thank you for taking action today!