

## MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT UPDATE – 21.2 Percent Physician Payment Cut Takes Effect March 1<sup>st</sup>

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Today Congress failed to act to prevent the 21.2 percent Medicare physician payment cut that will take effect Monday, March 1, 2010, due to the sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula.

The Senate adjourned before passing legislation approved by the House of Representatives that would have temporarily stopped the 21 percent cut. Several Senators raised objections over the costs associated with the bill and thus blocked its passage.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will notify contractors to hold Medicare physician claims for 10 business days, effective Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. This will allow time for the Senate to reconsider the issue next week.

Call your U.S. Senators -- demand that they address physician payment reform and work to preserve access to care for Medicare beneficiaries. Tell them what this cut means to your practice and the patients you serve.

To find the contact information for your two Senators:

- Go to [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)
- In the upper right hand corner you will see a box that says "Find Your Senator"
- Click on the drop down menu and select your state and click "go"
- You will see the contact information for both of your Senators
- Please email or call both Senate offices