
Help repeal the Medicare SGR formula

Call your senators today at 1-800-833-6354!

Act now to keep your practice viable and protect your Medicare and TRICARE patients' access to care. The 21 percent Medicare physician payment cut that had been scheduled to take effect January 1 has been delayed until March 1, giving us a short window of opportunity to persuade the U.S. Senate to do the right thing and permanently repeal Medicare's Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula.

For too many years, physicians have been threatened with huge cuts in Medicare payments, only for Congress to act at the last minute with a temporary reprieve that grows the problem and increases the cost of a permanent solution. The American Medical Association (AMA) has made it abundantly clear to members of Congress, as well as to the White House, that the days for BAND-AIDS® are over.

Congress created the SGR mess and it must fix it. Underpayment for services hurts every physician as well as patients covered by Medicare and TRICARE. Continuing this game of "kick the can" harms the stability and security of the entire Medicare system and the millions of seniors and military families it is intended to serve.

Senators need to hear directly from America's physicians on this issue. Please call the AMA's toll-free grassroots hotline at 1-800-833-6354 to urge your senators to permanently repeal the SGR.

Do it today for the future of your practice and the patients in your care!



Help protect access to care for seniors and military families.

Call your senators today at (888) 434-6200!

The American Medical Association (AMA) needs your help today to preserve access to care for seniors and military families covered through Medicare and TRICARE. On March 1, 2010, physicians who treat Medicare and TRICARE patients will face a 21 percent cut in reimbursement for the care they provide and seniors and military families will pay the price, with fewer doctors and less access to the care they've earned.

For too many years, physicians have been threatened with huge cuts in Medicare reimbursements only for Congress to act at the last minute with a temporary patch that grows the problem and increases the cost of a permanent solution. Congress needs to fix this problem once and for all so seniors and military families can be assured of continued access to care and choice of physician.

Today, about one out of four Medicare patients looking for a new primary care physician are having trouble finding one. In addition, nearly 90 percent of people age 50 and older say they are concerned that the current Medicare physician payment formula threatens their access to care. The time to act is now.

After a lifetime of service and hard work, America promised to honor seniors and veterans with health care they can count on. Tell your Senators it's time to permanently fix the physician access problem and honor that promise.

Please call the AMA's toll-free grassroots hotline at (888) 434-6200 to urge your senators to permanently fix the Medicare physician access problem and protect access to care.



Nevada seniors need Congress to repeal Medicare cuts formula: Choice of physicians at risk

- Nevada residents face several issues with choice of physicians and access to care: 13.3% of the state's residents live in a designated primary care shortage area; 13.9% report that they could not see a doctor in the last 12 months due to cost; there are 293 emergency department visits per 1,000 population in the state; and 21% of the state's Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and over live below 150% of the federal poverty level.
- Later this year, Nevada physicians face an across-the-board cut of 21.2%, with more cuts likely to follow over the next few years due to a flawed payment update formula, the Sustainable Growth Rate or SGR.
- By repealing the SGR formula, Congress can avert these cuts. SGR repeal would prevent a loss of \$90 million a year for the care of elderly and disabled patients in Nevada. On average, legislation to repeal the SGR would prevent cuts of \$18,000 per year to each Nevada physician.
- 23,172 employees, 280,738 Medicare patients and 99,641 TRICARE patients in Nevada will be helped by the legislation that averts these cuts.
- Compared to the rest of the country, Nevada, at 17 practicing physicians per 1,000 beneficiaries, has a below-average ratio of physicians to Medicare beneficiaries, and, at 190 practicing physicians per 100,000 population, Nevada has a below-average physician-to-population ratio, even before the cuts take effect.
- 41 percent of Nevada's practicing physicians are over 50, an age at which surveys have shown many physicians consider reducing their patient care activities.
- Legislation is also needed to reinstate a temporary increase in Medicare geographic adjustments for certain areas which expired at the end of 2009. In 2010, therefore, the legislation would prevent an additional 1.8% cut in payment rates for Nebraska physicians' Medicare services, on top of the 21.2% cuts across the country.

