



MEDTRON
SOFTWARE INTELLIGENCE



030310 NEWS BLAST

Special Medicare payment update: President signs extension of physician payment freeze

Late last night, the president signed [H.R. 4691](#), the Temporary Extension Act of 2010 into law. This legislation includes a provision that freezes Medicare physician payments at their current level until March 31, 2010. The legislation also extends the therapy cap exception process through until March 31, 2010. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 78 – 19. The House of Representatives had unanimously approved a companion bill by voice vote on Feb. 25.

The Senate is also currently debating [H.R. 4213](#) the American Workers, State, and Business Relief Act of 2010. This legislation extends the freeze on Medicare physician payments until Sept. 30, 2010. It also provides an extension to the therapy cap exception process through Dec. 31, 2010 and an extension of the geographic practice cost index floor through Dec. 31, 2010. If approved by the Senate, the bill would have to be approved by the House before transmittal to the president.

MEDDATA/MEDTRON does not support these continued short-term congressional interventions and urges all physicians to contact their senators and representatives to support permanent repeal of the sustainable growth rate formula.

Attached is an example letter than can be used as your response.

State of Louisiana contact information is available via <http://www.legis.state.la.us/>.

State of Mississippi contact information is available via <http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/>.

State of Tennessee contact information is available via <http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/>.

Let your voice be heard!

(Your Information Here)

March 3, 2010

Dear (Insert Official's Name and Title):

As you know, physicians are now experiencing a devastating 21.2 percent cut to their Medicare payments due to Congressional inaction.

To allow my medical group practice to continue to treat Medicare beneficiaries, I urge you to comprehensively address these Medicare physician payment cuts through the immediate repeal of the Medicare sustainable growth rate formula. Additional short-term patches to this severe problem only further threaten patient access and hampers physician practice operations.

Sincerely,

(Your name)