



## TEMPORARY DELAY IN MEDICARE PAYMENT CUT

A recent article published in the Part B News stated that the Senate has granted another temporary delay for the outrageous 21% Medicare payment cut. The Senate approved bill, passed on March 10, 2010, granted a delay until October 1, 2010. The tax bill includes a section addressing the sustainable growth rate (SGR) Medicare cut, therapy cap exceptions and an extension of the minimum Geographic Practice Cost Indices (GPCIs) work floor of 1.000. The 21% SGR cut was set for April 1 when lawmakers approved a one-month delay of the cut on March 2. This new bill will delay the cut until the fall once signed into law.

This bill also extends the therapy cap exception to Dec. 31, 2010. Providers attach modifier **KX** to claims for outpatient therapy services provided to patients who go over the therapy caps set at \$1,860. The bill retroactively extends the work floor through Dec. 31, 2010. This would impact payments for providers in more than 50 locales, including Louisiana, because they have work values below 1.000.

### **WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOUR PRACTICE:**

This temporary delay means your 2010 claims should be reimbursed at current payment rates and your Physical Therapy claims should be reimbursed as per current protocol.