



041610 NEWS BLAST

MEDICARE PAYMENT FREEZE EXTENDED

President Barack Obama has signed an employment benefits extension bill late on April 15, **preventing the 21% cut to Medicare reimbursements from taking effect until after May 31.** Lawmakers in Washington must enact another pay-fix bill before June 1 or the 21% cut to your Medicare payments will go through.

Here is a statement from CMS released prior to the bill's passage:

“Until now, CMS has been holding April 2010 date-of-service claims, anticipating congressional action. ... Therefore, under current law, Medicare contractors will begin processing claims with dates of service April 1 and later at the negative update rates. This will begin as soon as systems are fully tested to ensure proper claims payment. And, Medicare contractors will pay these claims on a first in - first out basis.

“If subsequent congressional action extends the zero percent update retroactive to April 1, 2010, Medicare will reprocess those claims at the higher rates. Claims with submitted charges at or above the higher rates will be able to be automatically reprocessed without further action.”

REMEMBER: Claims with dates of service prior to April 1 are not affected and will continue to be processed under normal procedures at the rates in effect on the date of service.

Source: Part B News

MEDTRON/MEDDATA urges everyone to contact their Senators and urge them to **permanently** address this issue by repealing the sustainable growth rate formula.

Please realize failure to act means you just accepted, with no argument, a 21% pay reduction!

You can contact your senators via the websites below.

U.S. Senate contact information is available via <http://www.senate.gov/>

State of LA 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/>