



061810 NEWS BLAST

BAD NEWS!!

CMS TO BEGIN PROCESSING HELD CLAIMS AT -21.3%

The Senate was unable to pass the American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act ([H.R. 4213](#)) late Thursday night, June 17, 2010, despite reducing the length of the Medicare physician payment provision from 19 months to 6 months in order to reduce the overall cost of the bill. Since the Senate failed to pass the bill this week, Medicare contractors may start today to process June claims at the -21.3 percent rate. The Senate is not expected to hold further votes this week.

Earlier this week, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) [extended](#) the Medicare claims processing hold through June 17. CMS and the Office of Inspector General (OIG) are expected to release guidance on medical practices' responsibilities regarding limiting charges and patient co-pay requirements as impacted by the Medicare payment cuts as well as the geographic payment adjustments called for by the recently enacted healthcare reform law soon.