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SOFTWARE INTELLIGENCE



122911 NEWS BLAST

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH RATE (SGR) MEDICARE PHYSICIAN CUT DELAYED UNTIL MARCH 1, 2012

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### **CMS HOLDING CLAIMS**

The House and Senate on Friday, December 23, 2011 approved a two-month extension of the payroll-tax cut, therefore delaying the 27.4 percent sustainable growth rate (SGR) Medicare physician cut until March 1, 2012.

As the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) implements calendar year 2012 changes, Medicare claims administration contractors will be holding some institutional provider claims containing 2012 services for up to the first 10 business days of January 2012 (i.e., Sunday, January 1, 2012, through Tuesday, January 17, 2012). Claims will be released as system testing is successfully completed, which is expected during that time frame.

The claims hold should have minimal impact on provider cash flow because, under current law, clean electronic claims are not paid sooner than 14 calendar days (29 days for paper claims) after the date of receipt. However, if you follow the status of your claim during the claims processing cycle, the claim status may not reflect what you would normally see because of the claims hold.

Medicare claims for services rendered on or before Saturday, December 31, 2011, are unaffected by the 2012 claims hold and will be processed and paid under normal procedures and time frames.

It's not too late to contact your elected officials and **DEMAND** a stop to the Medicare reimbursement cuts. Visit <http://www.congressweb.com/cweb2/index.cfm/siteid/MGMA> and complete the form letter today!