



MEDTRON
SOFTWARE INTELLIGENCE



112114 NEWS BLAST

Not a New Year's Issue this time! The 21% Medicare Proposed Cut to Physicians...

Current law requires that on **April 1, 2015**, Medicare physician payments **be cut 21%** due to the flawed sustainable growth rate (SGR) payment formula. To date, more than \$170 billion has been spent on 17 short-term patches, which is an amount greater than the Congressional Budget Office's estimated \$139 billion score of legislation to permanently repeal the formula.

It is imperative that the current Congress take action and repeal the SGR during its 2014 post-election "lame duck" session. Failure to do so may set the table for an 18th short-term solution during the first months of a new Congress – but considering the cost of these short-term patches, an aversion of that kind is not a guarantee. Attached here is MGMA's recent letter to Congress urging them to repeal the SGR before the year's end.

Please send a message to Congress here [Advocacy Center](#) and send a letter asking them to help put a stop to this flawed payment system once and for all by supporting the bipartisan, bicameral "SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act of 2014" (H.R. 4015/S. 2000). For your convenience, see page 2 for a sample letter that can be printed on your own letterhead.

<http://www.mgma.com/government-affairs/contact-congress#>

When you get to the above website, you are asked to enter your address to determine your congressional representative. The president, our Louisiana senators and your congressional representative are listed – if you do not wish to send a postal letter stating your request, you will notice the fax number is listed and you could utilize that!

Please send your letter/fax to both your congressional representative and the 2 senators.

Physicians and organizations around the nation are being asked to participate in this advocacy push to bring this issue to the forefront during what is sure to be a short, very crowded lame duck session.

Source: MGMA Louisiana – Advocacy Action

Contact Software Support for assistance or any questions via:

From **MEDPM** or **MEDEHR** Sign On screens, double click on 'support@medtronsoftware.com' to compose an email to the Software Support Dept.

-OR-

Phone: (985) 234-0599 (local)
(800) 978-0599 (toll free)

-OR-

Fax: (985) 234-0609

Dear Senators:

In less than five months, current law requires Medicare physician payments to be cut 21% due to the flawed sustainable growth rate (SGR) payment formula. The Medical Group Management Association (MGMA) urges Congress to permanently repeal the SGR now and end the practice of passing short-term SGR patches. More than \$170 billion has been used on 17 short-term patches, which is an amount greater than the Congressional Budget Office's estimated \$139 billion score of legislation to permanently repeal the formula. It is imperative that Congress take action and repeal the SGR during its 2014 post-election session.

Earlier this year, Congress made significant bi-partisan and bi-cameral progress on the "SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act of 2014" (H.R. 4015/S. 2000). This important legislation would provide for positive payment updates, offer options for physicians to participate in Alternative Payment Models, and start Medicare down a path toward harmonizing current disjointed and overlapping federal quality reporting programs. MGMA supports this legislation and is still hopeful the long-term SGR debacle can be solved this year.

The series of patches over the past decade have increased the cost of repealing the SGR and caused considerable instability for physician practices and Medicare patients. We urge you to complete your critically important bi-partisan work before the end of the year to repeal the SGR and modernize the Medicare physician payment system.

Should you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,