

## **21 percent Medicare SGR cut to go into effect April 1**

Congress adjourned for its two-week spring recess without taking the action that was needed to extend the SGR – so a 21 percent Medicare physician payment cut will go into effect on April 1.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has not addressed the pending cuts in any formal way, however CMS is not expected to process (i.e., will hold) claims at the reduced payment rates for 10 business days after the cut goes into effect.

The U.S. Senate reportedly plans to vote on the SGR on April 12.

“Not addressing the SGR in the health care reform bill that just passed was irresponsible, and letting this cut go into effect is indefensible,” MAG President Gary C. Richter, M.D., says of Congressional leaders. “This comes down to the government fulfilling the promise it made to American seniors when it instituted the Medicare program in 1964.”

Dr. Richter stresses that MAG has been urging Congressional leaders to replace the SGR with a system that is tied to the Medicare Economic Index – as well as giving patients and physicians the right to privately contract.

Go to [www.mag.org](http://www.mag.org) for resources addressing physician Medicare participation options. MAG is in ongoing communication with members of Georgia’s Congressional delegation. Physicians are encouraged to monitor [www.mag.org](http://www.mag.org) for the latest information on the SGR cut.