

21.3 percent Medicare payment cut in effect

A 21.3 percent Medicare physician payment cut went into effect on June 1.

On May 28, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill (H.R. 4213) that would have extended the Medicare SGR through 2011. However, the Senate did not act on the measure before lawmakers adjourned for the Memorial Day holiday. H.R. 4213 would have increased Medicare payments to physicians by 2.2 percent for the remainder of 2010 and one percent more in 2011, but it also would have resulted in a 33 percent cut in 2012. The Senate is expected to revisit the issue when it returns on June 7. This was the third time this year that Congress missed the deadline to address an SGR cut.

MAG is a leading advocate for a rational Medicare physician payment system, including testimony by its Immediate Past President M. Todd Williamson, M.D., before a Congressional group just last week (See MAG News headline from 05.27.10 "Coalition spokesman tells Congressional leaders right to contract sustainable medical payment solution")

Go to the "Medicare/Medicaid" page on www.mag.org for resources addressing Medicare participation options.

Also monitor www.mag.org for the latest Medicare SGR developments.