

## **CMS Releases 2013 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released its final rule ([Medicare Program; Revisions to Payment Policies Under the Physician Fee Schedule, DME Face-to-Face Encounters, Elimination of the requirement for Termination of Non-Random Prepayment Complex Medical Review and Other Revisions to Part B for CY 2013 on the Medicare 2013 Physician Fee Schedule](#)), which determines Medicare Part B payment rates for nursing homes and home health providers. As anticipated, the rule includes a negative reimbursement update to physician services of approximately 27 percent. The negative update is due to Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR), a statutory formula that requires reductions to physician updates if Medicare Part B spending in aggregate exceeds national targets. However, since 2002, Congress consistently has prevented the negative updates from being enacted. LeadingAge and LeadingAge NY have been advocating against this decrease. We continue to carefully monitor the situation and will advise members accordingly. It is too soon to assume that the negative rate adjustment is the final word on determining Medicare Part B rates for next year. Unfortunately, if recent history is any guide, we may not know what final action Congress will take until after the first of the year.

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