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Medicare Part B Rates

ABSTRACT: Congress enacts additional delay to 21.2 % cut in Medicare Part B payments.

On April 15, Congress enacted legislation that further delays the mandated 21.2 percent cut in the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) to **June 1, 2010**. The MPFS determines Medicare Part B payment rates, including the rates paid for ancillary services provided by nursing homes and home care agencies. The most recent extension had expired as of April 1, and providers were advised to hold claims pending further Congressional action. With this additional extension, providers should resume billing their Part B claims at the same rates as applied during the first quarter of 2010.

Again, this is just another in a series of temporary fixes to the problem, pending a permanent solution to the sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula issue, which ties increases in Part B rates to certain economic indicators. The SGR has been calling for negative MPFS adjustments since 2002, and the magnitude of the negative adjustment continues to compound each time Congress overrides the formula. AAHSA and NYAHS continue to advocate for a permanent solution to this problem and we will advise members on any further developments.

Please contact Patrick Cucinelli with any questions at pcucinelli@nyahsa.org or call 518-449-2707.