

U.S. House and Senate Notification
Friday, April 16, 2010

To: Congressional Health Staff

From: Amy Hall
Director, Office of Legislation
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Subject: The Continuing Extension Act of 2010

On April 15, 2010, President Obama signed into law the “Continuing Extension Act of 2010.” This law extends, through May 31, 2010, the zero percent update to the Medicare physician fee schedule that was in effect for claims with dates of service January 1, 2010, through March 31, 2010. The law is retroactive to April 1, 2010. Consequently, effective immediately, claims with dates of service April 1 and later, which were being held by Medicare contractors, are being released for processing and payment.

The statutory payment floors still apply and, therefore, clean electronic claims cannot be paid before 14 calendar days after the date they are received by Medicare contractors (29 calendar days for clean paper claims).

The press release regarding this announcement can be viewed at http://www.cms.gov/apps/media/press_releases.asp. If you have any questions about this issue, please contact the CMS Office of Legislation. Thank you.