



CMS Medicare FFS Provider e-News

CMS Information for the Medicare Fee-For-Service Provider Community

CMS asks that you share the following important information with all of your association members and state and local chapters. Thank you!

Robin Fritter, Director
Division of Provider
Relations & Outreach
Provider Communications
Group
Center for Medicare
Centers for Medicare &
Medicaid Services

robin.fritter@cms.hhs.gov
410-786-7485

Attention Health Professionals: Information Regarding the Holding of 2012 Date-of-Service Claims for Services Paid Under the 2012 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule

The negative update under current law for the 2012 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule is scheduled to take effect on Sun Jan 1, 2012, eight business days from today. Consequently, as on numerous occasions in the past, CMS will instruct its Medicare claims administration contractors to hold claims containing 2012 services paid under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule for the first 10 business days of January 2012 (i.e., Sun Jan 1 through Tue Jan 17). The hold should have minimal impact on provider cash flow because, under current law, clean electronic claims are not paid sooner than 14 calendar days (29 days for paper claims) after the date of receipt.

Medicare Physician Fee Schedule claims for services rendered on or before Sat Dec 31 are unaffected by the 2012 claims hold and will be processed and paid under normal procedures and time frames.

The Administration is disappointed that Congress has failed to pass a solution to eliminate the sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula-driven cuts, and has put payments for health care for Medicare beneficiaries at risk. We continue to urge Congress to take action to ensure these cuts do not take effect.

CMS will notify you on or before Wed Jan 11, 2012, with more information about the status of Congressional action to avert the negative update and next steps regarding the claims hold.

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