

U.S. House and Senate Notification
Wednesday, June 2, 2010

To: Congressional Health Staff

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

Re: Status of Physician Payments Under the 2010 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) appreciates that Congress is working to ensure that the nation's physicians do not have to experience the reduction in payments scheduled to take effect June 1, 2010, under the Medicare physician fee schedule (MPFS). To avoid disruption in the delivery of health care services to beneficiaries and payment of claims for physicians, non-physician practitioners, and other providers of services paid under the MPFS, CMS will hold the processing of claims for health care services paid under the fee schedule for the first 10 business days of June. This hold will only affect MPFS claims with dates of service June 1, 2010, and later.

CMS expects that the holding of these claims will have minimum impact on the cash flow of Medicare's physicians because, under current law, clean electronic claims are not paid before 14 calendar days (29 for paper claims) after the claim is received. Medicare beneficiaries will not experience any disruption in access to physician services during this time.

If you have questions about this announcement, please contact the CMS Office of Legislation.