

## Medicare Pay Cut and Claims Processing

Because Congress failed to pass legislation to prevent the July 1 cuts, Medicare carriers will be required to apply a 10.6% cut on all services performed after that date unless Congress returns and passes a bill that averts the cuts retroactive to July 1. By law, claims are not paid for 14 days after receipt so there is a short opportunity for carriers to hold up processing in the hope that Congress upon its return from the July 4 recess will take immediate action to avert the cuts retroactive to July 1. We are urging Congress in the strongest terms to pass legislation early the week of July 7. However, there is no guarantee that Congress will solve the problem immediately upon return.

Even if Congress takes immediate action, Medicare carriers would likely need some time to adjust their systems to change the rates back to the pre-July 1 levels. If this occurs, the AMA will advocate for CMS to automatically adjust physician payments and not require claims to be resubmitted.

Although the constant stream of emails from Medicare carriers to their physician list-serves can be impossible to keep up with, it's a good idea over the next few weeks to pay especially close attention to any messages physicians receive from their own Medicare carriers so they can keep track of news from their carriers affecting claims processing and payment rates.

**But the most important thing you can do is to call your Senators and ask your patients to call their Senators and get them to pass H.R. 6331.**

