
Help protect access to care for seniors and military families.

Call your senators today at (888) 434-6200!

The American Medical Association (AMA) needs your help today to preserve access to care for seniors and military families covered through Medicare and TRICARE. On April 1, 2010, physicians who treat Medicare and TRICARE patients will face a 21 percent cut in reimbursement for the care they provide and seniors and military families will pay the price, with fewer doctors and less access to the care they've earned.

For too many years, physicians have been threatened with huge cuts in Medicare reimbursements only for Congress to act at the last minute with a temporary patch that grows the problem and increases the cost of a permanent solution. Congress needs to fix this problem once and for all so seniors and military families can be assured of continued access to care and choice of physician.

Today, about one out of four Medicare patients looking for a new primary care physician are having trouble finding one. In addition, nearly 90 percent of people age 50 and older say they are concerned that the current Medicare physician payment formula threatens their access to care. The time to act is now.

After a lifetime of service and hard work, America promised to honor seniors and veterans with health care they can count on. Tell your Senators it's time to permanently fix the physician access problem and honor that promise.

Please call the AMA's toll-free grassroots hotline at (888) 434-6200 to urge your senators to permanently fix the Medicare physician access problem and protect access to care.

March 2010

Dear Patient,

As your physician, my ability to treat you may soon be at risk. According to Washington's flawed Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula, physicians will see a **21% decrease in Medicare reimbursement** starting April 1, 2010. This cut will also include TRICARE, the insurance for our military families.

Understanding that we have a tremendous number of Medicare patients in our community, a 21% reduction will be catastrophic for some medical practices that are already having difficulty just getting by.

This reduction, however, won't just affect Medicare patients. Essentially all insurance companies now set their reimbursement rates in proportion to Medicare. A reduction of 21% by Medicare will also result in a 21% reduction in virtually all insurance compensation. Medical care is one of the largest employers in Lee County and the results for this community will be devastating. Employees will have to be let go. Our fragile local economy will be further harmed. This alone could very well damage our community as much as the recent recession.

Physician practices may be forced to limit appointments or cease taking new Medicare patients. It is expected that some physician practices will merge in an attempt to survive. Physicians close to retirement may very well do so. Recruiting young physicians to the region will become increasingly difficult. If doctors can't make ends meet, they will leave their practices to seek other forms of employment.

If you want to continue to have the quality and access to medical care you currently have, please contact your U.S. Senators and Representative at the addresses below:

Sen. Bill Nelson
United States Senate
716 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510-0905
FAX 202-228-2183
<http://billnelson.senate.gov>

Sen. George LeMieux
United States Senate
356 Russell Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510-0906
FAX 202-228-5171
info@lemieux.senate.gov

Rep. Connie Mack
United States House of
Representatives
115 Cannon House
Washington, DC 20515
FAX 202-226-0439
<http://www.house.gov/mack>

Form letters will be made available for your use. Faxing is probably the best way to send your message. Regular mail is inevitably delayed, as it is rerouted undergoing additional scrutiny for security reasons. You can also go to your legislator's website and send an email message.

We need your help. Please make your voices heard before it is truly too late.

Thank you.

March 2010

The Honorable Bill Nelson
United States Senate
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0905
FAX: 202-228-2183
<http://billnelson.senate.gov>

Dear Senator Nelson:

As a patient, I am deeply concerned about the 21% reduction physicians will soon face with their Medicare/TRICARE patients because of Washington's flawed Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula. This cut will take place on April 1, 2010.

This sudden and severe reduction in reimbursement will inevitably result in more layoffs in our community and we are already struggling. Because medicine is responsible for so many jobs, this reduction could damage our community as much as the recent recession.

If physicians can't make ends meet, doctors close to retirement may retire early or seek other forms of employment and leave the area. I don't want to wait months for an appointment to see the physicians that remain.

I understand that the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation that permanently repealed the flawed SGR formula replacing it with a better one. Unfortunately, the U.S. Senate failed to act.

Please, it is up to you to enact a permanent and fair solution.

I am concerned that my access to quality of medical care will soon decrease. I do not want to lose the ability to see my own physician.

Thank you-

Signature

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Telephone

Email

March 2010

The Honorable George LeMieux
United States Senate
356 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0906
FAX 202-228-5171
info@lemieux.senate.gov

Dear Senator LeMieux:

As a patient, I am deeply concerned about the 21% reduction physicians will soon face with their Medicare/TRICARE patients because of Washington's flawed Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula. This cut will take place on April 1, 2010.

This sudden and severe reduction in reimbursement will inevitably result in more layoffs in our community and we are already struggling. Because medicine is responsible for so many jobs, this reduction could damage our community as much as the recent recession.

If physicians can't make ends meet, doctors close to retirement may retire early or seek other forms of employment and leave the area. I don't want to wait months for an appointment to see the physicians that remain.

I understand that the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation that permanently repealed the flawed SGR formula replacing it with a better one. Unfortunately, the U.S. Senate failed to act.

Please, it is up to you to enact a permanent and fair solution.

I am concerned that my access to quality of medical care will soon decrease. I do not want to lose the ability to see my own physician.

Thank you-

Signature

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Telephone

Email

March 2010

The Honorable Connie Mack
United States House of Representatives
115 Cannon House
Washington, DC 20515
FAX 202-226-0439
<http://www.house.gov/mack>

Dear Representative Mack:

As a patient, I am deeply concerned about the 21% reduction physicians will soon face with their Medicare/TRICARE patients because of Washington's flawed Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula. This cut will take place on April 1, 2010.

This sudden and severe reduction in reimbursement will inevitably result in more layoffs in our community and we are already struggling. Because medicine is responsible for so many jobs, this reduction could damage our community as much as the recent recession.

If physicians can't make ends meet, doctors close to retirement may retire early or seek other forms of employment and leave the area. I don't want to wait months for an appointment to see the physicians that remain.

I understand that the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation that permanently repealed the flawed SGR formula replacing it with a better one. Unfortunately, the U.S. Senate failed to act.

Please, it is up to you to enact a permanent and fair solution.

I am concerned that my access to quality of medical care will soon decrease. I do not want to lose the ability to see my own physician.

Thank you-

Signature

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Telephone

Email