



## **EDPMA Action Alert:**

### ***Urge Congress to Eliminate or Delay Scheduled Cuts to Medicare Physician Reimbursement***

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This week the House of Representatives is likely to consider legislation that will address some of the 9.75% cut to Medicare provider reimbursement that is scheduled to take effect in January 2022. The Senate will likely consider legislation soon thereafter. We urge you to reach out to your congressional delegation and ask them to support legislation that will eliminate or delay the scheduled Medicare cuts.

You can identify your member of the House and find their contact information by visiting [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) and typing your zip code in the upper right corner. You can identify your two senators and find their contact information by visiting [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) and searching by senators by state. Since the vote is imminent, we recommend making these three phone calls and leaving your message with the person who answers the phone.

**Background:** There are 3 cuts to Medicare physician reimbursement that are scheduled to take effect in 2022:

1. The 4% pay-go sequestration is scheduled to take effect in January 2022 unless Congress waives the requirement to pay for the COVID relief package that was passed earlier in 2021.
2. The 3.75% one-year increase in Medicare reimbursement which addressed the deep cut to the Medicare conversion factor will expire at the end of 2021 unless it is extended.
3. The suspension of the 2% mandatory Medicare sequestration will expire at the end of 2021 unless it is extended.

Over a majority of the members of the House have already signed a letter urging their leadership to address these cuts: [0/14/2021 Bera-Bucshon Physician Pay Letter](#). Learn more about the impact of a 9.75% cut in Medicare reimbursement with [EDPMA's Hand-Out on 2022 Medicare Cuts](#).

#### **Talking Points:**

1. **Provide your name, address and an estimate of the number of patients your group or company serves in the state.**
2. **Please support legislation that reduces or delays the scheduled cut to Medicare physician reimbursement.**

3. Over a majority of the Representatives in the US House of Representatives are on record urging congressional leadership to address these cuts (see Bera-Buchshon letter linked above). (Please note you should thank your representative if they are one of the members that signed this important letter.)
4. While these cuts would be devastating to emergency medicine practices at any moment in time, the implementation of these cuts in the middle of a global pandemic will be absolutely catastrophic to the ability of practices to stay afloat. This is compounded by the perpetual underfunding of Medicare physician services and the simultaneous cuts to commercial reimbursement when the No Surprises Act is implemented in January 2022. It is further exacerbated by the year-long delays in deploying Provider Relief Funds.
5. COVID is still having a major impact on emergency physicians. EDPMA surveyed its emergency physician group members in November 2021 and, on average, they are still experiencing more than a 10% reduction in patient visits in comparison to pre-COVID numbers.
6. The Omicron variant may lead to even deeper declines in some areas and problematic increases in others.
7. Emergency Departments already provide over two-thirds of all uncompensated care and over half of Medicaid and CHIP care. They are the nation's healthcare safety net. These cuts would undermine the safety net.
8. The nation must do what is needed to help physicians fight the pandemic.