



# OSMA News Now

The Latest News, Views, Updates, and Information for Physicians  
from the Oklahoma State Medical Association

March 5, 2010

## OSMA Physician Leaders Carry OSMA/AMA Message to Capitol Hill

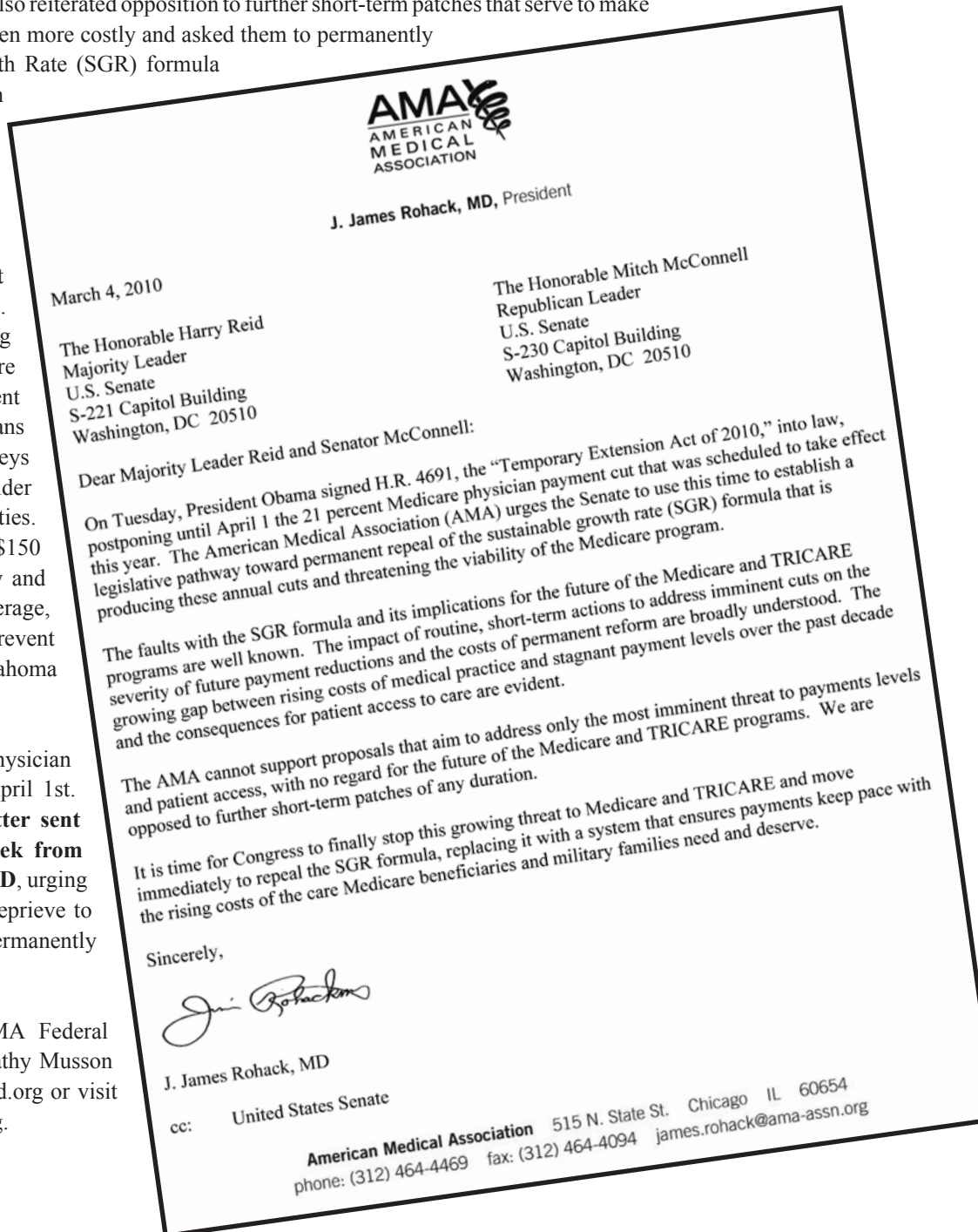
During the AMA National Advocacy Conference this week, Oklahoma attendees, along with OSMA Federal Lobbyist John Montgomery, carried the OSMA's federal legislative agenda to the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation and their health aids during Capitol Hill visits.

On Tuesday March 2nd and Wednesday March 3rd the physician contingency made "House Calls" with all members of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation. The top priority was asking for their support to stop the 21.2 percent physician payment cut which was scheduled for 2010. The physician contingency also reiterated opposition to further short-term patches that serve to make future cuts more severe and reform even more costly and asked them to permanently replace the flawed Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula with a new update formula based on medical practice cost increases.

Because Medicare and TRICARE patients already face problems in getting physician care, the group expressed that the problem will get worse without permanent repeals. Oklahoma has just 14 practicing physicians per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries. Approximately 46 percent of Oklahoma's practicing physicians are over 50, an age at which surveys have shown many physicians consider reducing their patient care activities. SGR repeal would prevent a loss of \$150 million a year for the care of elderly and disabled patients in Oklahoma. On average, legislation to repeal the SGR would prevent cuts of \$19,000 per year to each Oklahoma physician.

On Tuesday, action on the Medicare physician payment cuts was postponed until April 1st. **Included in this newsletter is a letter sent to members of the Senate this week from AMA President J. James Rohack, MD, urging the Senate to use the recent 31-day reprieve to develop a legislative pathway to permanently repeal the SGR formula.**

For additional information on OSMA Federal Legislative agenda, please contact Kathy Musson at (800) 522-9452 or Musson@okmed.org or visit the OSMA website at www.okmed.org.



J. James Rohack, MD, President

March 4, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-221 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-230 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Senator McConnell:

On Tuesday, President Obama signed H.R. 4691, the "Temporary Extension Act of 2010," into law, postponing until April 1 the 21 percent Medicare physician payment cut that was scheduled to take effect this year. The American Medical Association (AMA) urges the Senate to use this time to establish a legislative pathway toward permanent repeal of the sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula that is producing these annual cuts and threatening the viability of the Medicare program.

The faults with the SGR formula and its implications for the future of the Medicare and TRICARE programs are well known. The impact of routine, short-term actions to address imminent cuts on the severity of future payment reductions and the costs of permanent reform are broadly understood. The growing gap between rising costs of medical practice and stagnant payment levels over the past decade and the consequences for patient access to care are evident.

The AMA cannot support proposals that aim to address only the most imminent threat to payments levels and patient access, with no regard for the future of the Medicare and TRICARE programs. We are opposed to further short-term patches of any duration.

It is time for Congress to finally stop this growing threat to Medicare and TRICARE and move immediately to repeal the SGR formula, replacing it with a system that ensures payments keep pace with the rising costs of the care Medicare beneficiaries and military families need and deserve.

Sincerely,

J. James Rohack, MD

cc: United States Senate

American Medical Association 515 N. State St. Chicago IL 60654  
phone: (312) 464-4469 fax: (312) 464-4094 james.rohack@ama-assn.org

## Medicare Fast Facts

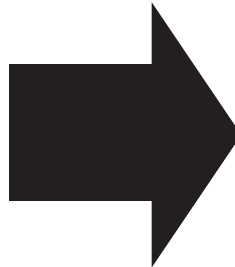
We were recently apprised of two important Medicare changes that may be of great concern to you and/or your practice. The following is a brief summary of those changes:

1. President Obama signed the Temporary Extension Act of 2010 into law March 2, 2010, delaying the 21.2% reduction to the Medicare physician fee schedule until April 1, 2010. In addition, the new law extends through March 31, 2010 the exception process for therapy claims reaching the annual cap (\$1,860) retroactive to January 1, 2010.
2. TrailBlazer is transitioning to a new accounting system. This transition will temporarily affect your Medicare revenue cycle as follows:
  - Early release of claims between March 5th and March 10th.
  - No Medicare payments (including remittance advices) issued between March 11th and 16th.
  - Medicare will resume their normal payment cycles March 17, 2010

What does this mean for you? You may notice higher receipts between March 5th and March 11th, followed by a two week lull.

It is important to continue submitting claims to Medicare during this transition.

## Annual Meeting Hotel Reservations Sheraton Midwest City



(405)455.1800 • (800) 325.3535

\$124.00 Discounted Rate

Deadline for receiving the discounted rate is March 26, 2010.

**Annual Meeting April 16 & 17  
Midwest City Reed Center**

## Call for Delegates

If you are interested in serving as a delegate at the OSMA Annual Meeting, please contact Donna Bartlett at 405.601.9571 or [bartlett@okmed.org](mailto:bartlett@okmed.org).

## 2010 National Advocacy Conference A Success

Oklahoma was well represented at the recent AMA National Advocacy Conference, held March 1-3, 2010 in Washington, DC. Representing the OSMA was K.A. Mehta, MD, OSMA President-Elect; Dean Drooby, MD, Chair of OSMA's Governmental Activities Council; and George Caldwell, MD, Vice-Chair of OSMA's Governmental Activities Council. Also in attendance from Oklahoma were Mary Anne McCaffree, MD, AMA Board member; Robert McCaffree, MD, OSMA Secretary-Treasurer, and Larry Bookman, MD, 2010 President of Oklahoma County Medical Society. OSMA Executive Director Ken King and Associate Executive Director Kathy Musson also attended the conference.

The conference provided leaders of the medical community from around the country the opportunity to gather and receive the latest information on various political and advocacy issues of interest to physicians and patients. Again this year, the conference focused on the main legislative issues for physician and patients regarding Medicare Reimbursement issues, Medical Liability Reform and overall health care reform.

# 2010 Annual Meeting Oklahoma State Medical Association

along with the Oklahoma Academy of Family Physicians

Reed Conference Center - Midwest City  
April 16th - 17th, 2010

REGISTRATION FORM



Date

Schedule

Please put the number attending in the box provided even if there is no charge. List all names on page 2.

**Friday  
April 16th**

- 7:30am Legislative Breakfast
- 8:30am-12:30pm OSMA CME Mock Trial: Medical Malpractice \$75 members/\$125 non-members
- 12:45pm-1:45pm Luncheon
- 1:30pm-1:55pm OAFP Registration
- 2:00pm OSMA Board of Trustees
- 2:00pm-5:00pm OAFP Mental Health Update presented by Art Rousseau, MD
- 5:00pm-6:00pm Depression METRIC, Mastering Part IV of the Boards (a Tutorial) presented by Mike Pontious, MD
- 5:30pm -7:00pm OSMA Foundation Reception & Silent Auction - No Charge
- 7:00pm - 11:00pm OSMA/OSMAA Inaugural - \$75

For information or to register for OSMA Alliance events, please contact Nancy Bennett at (405) 601-9571 or [bennett@okmed.org](mailto:bennett@okmed.org)

**Saturday  
April 17th**

- 7:30am Caucus Breakfast Buffet - No charge
- 8:00am-9:00am Oklahoma/Tulsa/Rural Caucus Meetings
- 9:00am-12:00pm OSMA House of Delegates
- 10:30am-11:00am Voting
- 12:15pm - 1:15pm Awards Luncheon \$35
- 1:30pm-2:00pm AMA Delegation Meeting
- 2:00pm-5:00pm OSMA Health Board Meeting

Accreditation Statement: This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and Policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint sponsorship of the Oklahoma State Medical Association (OSMA) and the Physicians Liability Insurance Company (PLICO). The OSMA is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The OSMA designates this educational activity for a maximum of 4 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Approved for credit toward the PLICO Risk Management premium discount.

CME Planning Committee has no relevant financial relationships to disclose. All Faculty have no relevant financial relationships to disclose.

OAFP Accreditation Statement: This activity has been reviewed and is acceptable for up to 4.00 Prescribed credits by the American Academy of Family Physicians.

AAFP Prescribed credit is accepted by the American Medical Association as equivalent to AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ toward the AMA Physician's Recognition Award. When applying for the AMA PRA, Prescribed credit earned must be reported as Prescribed credit, not as Category 1.

## PAYMENT

Name(s) of attendees: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Total due to the OSMA \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECK:** Please enclose a check, made payable to the OSMA, for the full payment amount. Partial payments are not accepted.

CHECK(S) INCLUDED

**CREDIT CARD:** Please charge my payment in full to the credit card listed below. Partial payments are not accepted.

VISA       MasterCard       Discover       AMEX

Signature of Authorized Card Holder: \_\_\_\_\_

Name appearing on card (Please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

3 digit security code: \_\_\_\_\_ Card Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAIL TO ADDRESS BELOW:**

Oklahoma State Medical Association, 313 NE 50th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 73105

**PLEASE CALL THE OSMA WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS:**

405-601-9571 or 800.522.9452 FAX: 405.601.9575, [osma@okmed.org](mailto:osma@okmed.org)

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Attendance cancellation must be made six business days in advance to receive refund.

## HOTEL INFORMATION

Hotel reservations must be made directly with the Sheraton Midwest City Hotel. Please mention the Oklahoma State Medical Association by March 26th to receive the special group rate of \$124.

**Sheraton Midwest City Hotel at the Reed Conference Center**  
**5750 Will Rogers Road • Midwest City, Oklahoma 73110**  
**Phone: (405) 455-1800 (800) 325-3535**