



PHYSICIANS' GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY CHECKLIST



It's time to cure a chronic problem. On December 1, a **23 percent** cut to Medicare physician payments is scheduled to take effect. Join the American Medical Association (AMA) in sending members of Congress a loud, clear message that the broken Medicare payment system must be fixed, and that physicians and their patients must be treated fairly.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Make a national house call on Congress on November 17!

November 17 is White Coat Wednesday, when physicians from across the country will call their U.S. senators to urge them to act on this issue. Call the AMA's grassroots hotline at **(800) 833-6354**, and we'll put you in touch with your respective senators so you can express your outrage about the impending cuts.

(800) 833-6354

Review your Medicare participation options *before* December 31

Assess which Medicare options are right for your practice with the AMA's new Medicare Options toolkit. Visit www.ama-assn.org/go/medicareoptions to get your toolkit and learn more. Be sure to submit any changes in status for 2011 before December 31, 2010. Share the Medicare toolkit link with 10 of your physician colleagues—they'll be glad you did.

www.ama-assn.org/go/medicareoptions

Join the AMA Physicians' Grassroots Network

Stay informed! Turn to the AMA to keep you up to date with what's really going on in Washington. Join the AMA Physicians' Grassroots Network to receive timely information and legislative alerts.

The greater our numbers, the more powerful our voice. Encourage five fellow physicians to sign up for e-alerts from the AMA Physicians' Grassroots Network.

www.ama-assn.org/go/grassroots

Share your story

Send an e-mail to SGRcrisis@ama-assn.org to tell the AMA how Medicare payment disruptions in 2010 affected you and your practice.

SGRcrisis@ama-assn.org

Educate patients about the severity of the problem

Inform your patients about the damage Medicare cuts could have on their care. Visit www.ama-assn.org/go/medicareoptions to print 50 patient-focused fliers and distribute them in your waiting area. Give your patients accurate information and encourage them to call their Congressional leaders to voice their concerns.

www.ama-assn.org/go/medicareoptions

Expand your patients' legislative knowledge

Your patients can sign up for e-alerts on the impact of Medicare cuts through the AMA's Patients' Action Network.

www.patientsactionnetwork.org

Leverage your connections

Do you have a good relationship with a new or returning member of Congress or his or her staff? Then join the AMA's Very Influential Physician (V.I.P.) team! Your personal relationships with legislative leaders can help ensure that physicians have an influential voice now and in the future. Visit www.ama-assn.org/go/VIP to fill out the key contact survey.

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