



ORTHOPÆDICS

Orthopaedic Experts, Close to Home.

July 2011

Dear Valued Patient:

At this time, we feel it is necessary to make you aware that once again, we are facing impending reductions in physician Medicare reimbursement which could dramatically affect the healthcare choices for your loved ones and for yourself.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is required to issue a proposed rule that reflects current law. Under current law, providers would face steep across-the-board reduction in payment rates, based on a formula– the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) – that was adopted in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. If it goes into effect, Medicare payment rates are projected to be reduced by 29.5% for services beginning January 1, 2012. This is the eleventh time the SGR formula resulted in a payment cut, although the cuts have been averted through legislation in all but 2002. In 2010, three separate pieces of legislation were necessary to avert the payment cuts. This means physician reimbursement will be **less than half of what it was in 1995**.

The Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) must be permanently corrected in order for us to continue providing the highest quality of care to our Medicare patients. Should these cuts take effect; our appointment availability to Medicare patients will be limited, severely jeopardizing access to medical services. According to MGMA physician practice survey, these cuts would cause:

- 67% of medical practices surveyed would limit the number of new Medicare patients
- 50% of practices say they will not accept new Medicare patients.
- 75% of respondents say they will likely delay the purchase of new equipment or facilities
- 50% say they would reduce clinical staff
- 45% say they will delay purchasing electronic health record (EHR) systems

OAD Physicians are dedicated to providing our patients with the highest level of medical care and services. Although we are reluctant, the proposed reimbursement reductions may force us to make difficult decisions. Please call or write your Congressmen, asking them to repeal the Sustainable Growth Rate formula that mandates cuts in physician reimbursement each year, and to replace it with a formula that keeps up with the cost of providing care. They need to know that you want them to vote against SGR.

Sincerely,

The Physicians of OAD Orthopaedics

Senator Mark Kirk
524 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510
Phone: 202-224-2854
[p=comment_on_legislation](http://www.kirk.senate.gov/?p=comment_on_legislation)

Senator Dick Durbin
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202)224-2152 http://www.kirk.senate.gov/?p=comment_on_legislation
<http://www.durbin.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact>