



# ORTHOPÆDICS

*Orthopaedic Experts, Close to Home.*

July 1, 2010

Dear Valued Patient:

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

The Medicare physician payment formula, also known as 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. Under a proposed rule issued by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), physicians would receive a 6.1 percent reduction in Medicare reimbursement starting Jan. 1, 2011. The cut would be in addition to a projected 23.5 cut mandated by the SGR formula and scheduled to take effect Dec. 1, 2010. If both cuts go into effect, physicians would see a nearly 30 percent reduction in Medicare reimbursement in 2011. This means physician reimbursement will be **less than half of what it was in 1995**. CMS plans to further reduce reimbursement by an additional 20% by the year 2014. As a result, it is expected that physicians will again limit available appointments to Medicare patients, severely jeopardizing access to medical services. You may not be aware that many insurance plans pay based on the Medicare rates, therefore cuts in Medicare rates affect other plans as well.

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

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**Senator Roland Burris**  
387 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-2854

**Senator Dick Durbin**  
309 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-2152

To find the name of your U.S. Representative:

<https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>

***Orthopaedic Surgery -  
Joint Reconstruction  
Arthroscopic Surgery  
Sports Medicine***

Aaron A. Bare, M.D.  
David K. Chang, M.D.  
Lenard W. LaBelle, M.D.  
David M. Mochel, M.D.  
Jeffrey A. Senall, M.D.  
William R. Sterba, M.D.  
David H. Watt, M.D.  
Gregory P. Witkowski, M.D.

***Hand & Upper Extremity***

Anup A. Bendre, M.D.  
Thomas W. Kiesler, M.D.  
Mary Ling, M.D.  
Richard L. Makowiec, M.D.  
Richard K. Thomas, M.D.

***Physical Medicine  
& Rehabilitation***

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Mary T. Norek, M.D.

***Reconstructive Spinal Surgery***

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Stephen E. Heim, M.D.  
Jerome L. Kolavo, M.D.

***Foot & Ankle Surgery***

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Gregory P. Witkowski, M.D.

***Orthopaedic Medicine/  
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***Emeritus***

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