This Week in Health Policy…
• SGR and Medicare Payments
• Medicare and Medicaid Innovation
• The Nation’s Governors
• Maintenance of Licensure
Upon their return to Washington D.C. this week, the U.S. Congress promised to deal with the looming crisis facing the physician fee schedule during the ‘lame duck’ session.

If the cuts do take effect on December 1st, doctors will be forced to consider the following options:

• Reduce the number of clinical staff (54.0%)
  • Cease treating all Medicare patients (27.5%)
• Refuse to accept new Medicare patients (49.1%).

Click here to review MGMA’s press release.

Photo credit: AARP
This week, the Finance Committee of the U.S. Senate convened a hearing on health system reform, at which the sole witness was Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Dr. Donald Berwick. For a video archive of the hearing, click here.

Also this week, Dr. Berwick announced the launch of the new Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, per the Affordable Care Act. This initiative holds great promise for improving quality and reducing health care costs for one in three Americans. For more details, click here.
In 2011, there will be 29 new governors across the United States. The National Governors Association (NGA) has compiled a list of the ‘class of 2011’. For details, click here.

Together with their governors, some legislatures have constructed frameworks for implementing the Affordable Care Act as efficiently and as cost-effectively as possible. The NGA has, likewise, compiled a list of these structures. For details, click here.
The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) has developed a framework for helping physicians remain proactive about continuing medical education (CME) in order to improve competency. This initiative, known as Maintenance of Licensure (MOL), is aimed at enhancing patient safety and improving the quality of care delivered by the nation’s doctors. For details, click here.

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What You Can Do

• Volunteering in Haiti? Please update us at haitirelief@nmanet.org

• Is Policy Beat helpful? Please send us feedback at healthpolicy@nmanet.org

• Will you stop accepting Medicare patients in 2011? Let us know at healthpolicy@nmanet.org

For the latest health policy news and information, visit our page NMA Health Policy Updates.

Continue to visit our Haiti Earthquake Relief page for information on relief efforts.
Resources


