This Week in Health Policy…
- PHR Roundtable at ONC
- SGR – Another Temporary Fix
- Commission’s Healthcare Proposal
- MedPAC Public Meeting
The Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) is hosting a day long roundtable on personal health records. This important summit, entitled “Personal Health Records – Understanding the Evolving Landscape” is available by live webcast, today, Friday, 3 December 2010. Public comments will be accepted through Friday, 10 December 2010.

For agenda, click here.
For the morning session, click here.
For the afternoon session, click here.
Medicare Reimbursements: Temporary Reprieve

On November 30th, President Obama signed The Physician Payment and Therapy Relief Act of 2010, which institutes a +2.2% update to physician reimbursements under Medicare until 31 December 2010, temporarily averting drastic pay cuts.

If cuts take effect on 1 January 2011, many physicians will 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
The National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform is a bipartisan panel tasked by President Obama to propose viable solutions to the nation’s crushing debt burden and growing budget deficits. This week, the Commission issued its recommendations. For details, click here.

HEALTH CARE HIGHLIGHTS
• Reform the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR)
• Reform or repeal the CLASS Act
• Aggressively implement and expand payment reform pilot programs
• Establish a global budget for health care costs, and limit growth to GDP + 1%.
The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) held its most recent public meeting in Washington, D.C. this week. MedPAC’s primary role is to advise the Congress on Medicare payment and cost savings issues.

Click here for more detail.

**Agenda Highlights:**
- Hospital reimbursements
- Physician and outpatient services
  - Long term care.

• Image credit: MedPAC
What You Can Do

• Will you accept new Medicare patients in 2011? Email us at healthpolicy@nmanet.org.

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

• New email address? 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


