

# MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT

## **Recommendation to Congress**

- Permanently fix the SGR formula.

## **Talking Points for use with Congress, Media, Patients**

- The payment rate for Medicare patients must be changed.
- Annual Medicare payment cuts — nearly 30 percent next year due to this formula — create an unstable and unpredictable program.
- Many of America's physicians' practices are small businesses. While they are committed to seeing their long-time patients, declining Medicare payments will make it unaffordable for them to take new Medicare patients.
- Elderly patients should not have to worry about the security of their health care. However, physicians may be forced to stop seeing Medicare patients.
- A recent survey by AARP, the organization representing older adults, found 87 percent of respondents believe it is important for providers to be reimbursed adequately so they can continue to accept Medicare patients.
- The payment formula affects the other insurance reimbursements to physicians. Many private insurance companies, and TRICARE, look to Medicare payment rates when determining the amounts they will pay.

## **Tips for Making Your Voice Heard**

- Meet with your Senators and Representative on this issue at home or in Washington, call them, or fax or email a letter to them using MGMA Legislative Action Center
- Mail or give the suggested letter to your patients asking them to email a letter to their Representative and Senators. Feel free to add your own information or anecdotes to personalize the information.
- Mail or hand out in your office a letter for your patients to fax to Congress. You may wish to offer to fax the signed letter with their address from your office.