

CMS Offers Guidance on Medicare Claims

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is working with Congress, health care providers, and the beneficiary community to avoid disruption in the delivery of health care services and payment of claims for physicians, non-physician practitioners, and other providers of services paid under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS). As you are aware, the Temporary Extension Act of 2010, enacted on March 2, 2010, extended the zero percent (0%) update to the 2010 MPFS through March 31, 2010.

CMS believes Congress is working to avert the negative update that will take effect April 1. Consequently, CMS has instructed its contractors to hold claims containing services paid under the MPFS (including anesthesia services) for the first 10 business days of April. This hold will only affect claims with dates of service April 1, 2010, and forward. In addition, the hold should have minimum impact on provider cash flow because, under the current law, clean electronic claims are not paid any sooner than 14 calendar days (29 for paper claims) after the date of receipt.

Be on the alert for more information about the 2010 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Update. In addition to resources developed by CMS, APTA has developed [an FAQ](#) related to the scheduled implementation of the reduced fee schedule rate. We will update this FAQ as more information becomes available or when Congressional action is taken.

Congress is expected to revisit this issue when they return next week.