

Delay in the 21.2% cut under Physician Fee Schedule.

The 21.2% reduction to the 2010 conversion factor, set to go into effect on January 1, 2010, has been delayed until March 1, 2010. The 2010 conversion factor will remain \$36.0666 from January 1, 2010 through February 28, 2010, or until the date that health reform is passed by Congress and signed into law by the President. On December 16th the House approved an amendment to H.R. 3326 that would freeze the 21.2% reduction until March 1, 2010. This amendment was approved by the Senate on December 19th and signed into law by President Obama on December 21, 2009. The language in this bill is specific only to the conversion factor so all other 2010 changes outlined in the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule rule will be effective January 1, 2010.

It is anticipated that Congress will address the SGR issue in legislation separate from the health care reform bill early next year.