

SGR Update:

As you know, the current extension of the SGR fix is set to expire at the end of March while Congress is in recess. An additional 30-day extension (combined with other extensions, such as unemployment benefits) had passed the House and is pending in the Senate. Because the cost of the package is not offset, Senators McConnell and Coburn are not allowing for the package to pass by unanimous consent, therefore, calling for a vote on the package.

Because there is not time for cloture to ripen before the Senate adjourns for recess, it is likely that they will recess today without the fix passing. Therefore, the current fix is likely to expire, and, as we saw with the last delay, we would expect to see CMS issue a notice to physicians asking them to again hold their claims until the pending fix is passed into law. Our expectation is that the vote will occur when the Senate comes back, likely April 12th.