

WVOS Legislative Update



The January 4, 2009

On December 22, 2009, Congress passed, and President Obama signed into law the Department of Defense Appropriations Bill (H.R. 3326) which eliminated the negative 21.2% reduction to the Medicare Physicians Fee Schedule and have provided for a 0% update for the month of January and February 2010.

Other changes reflected in the 2010 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule **will still take effect** on January 1, 2010 and will have an impact reimbursement because of relative value unit (RVU) changes and as a result of the technical corrections to the malpractice RVU's. Palmetto GBA has published an updated fee schedule which is available on their site:

www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/7Z8PPM3631

CMS will be holding physician claims for the standard 10-day review period as of Jan. 1. CMS does not anticipate any cash flow problems for physicians since by law no claims are paid prior to 14 days after receipt.

Reminder; CMS no longer allows a 90 day grace period for deleted/added codes. Oncology practices should double check to be sure they have added the new drug codes published in our last Newsletter and are NO LONGER using:

- the Docetaxel 20 mg code, J9170 and have replaced this code as of January 1, 2010 with: Docetaxel 1 mg code, J9171
- consultation codes are eliminated as of January 1. 2010