

Congress Passes Two-Month SGR Fix

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Literally hours after the AADA sent its Member Alert on Thursday, Dec. 22, and days after Congress had officially left town for its holiday recess, Congress announced an agreement to temporarily stop the scheduled 27 percent Medicare physician payment cut that was scheduled to begin Jan. 1, 2012. The two-month reprieve, which President Obama signed into law on Dec. 23, also extends the payroll tax cut and unemployment benefits.

The AADA is urging Congress to use this short reprieve to address the unsustainable physician payment structure and create permanent stability within the Medicare program. The constant and far-reaching instability in the current payment system was apparent as physician groups, including the AADA, have been preparing their members for disruptions in their physician payment as the deadline edged closer.

While the Academy offices are operating with limited staff until Jan. 3, you may continue to reach AADA government affairs staff with any comments or questions regarding the SGR fix at govtaffairs@aad.org. In addition, please continue to monitor www.aad.org for updates