

TEMPORARY DELAY IN FEE SCHEDULE RATE CHANGE

The President Signed into Law H.R. 3326, Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010: Includes a 0% Medicare Physician Part B fee screen Update through February 28th, 2010

On December 19th, the President signed into law H.R. 3326, the "Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010," which includes a zero percent Medicare Part B Fee screen update through February 28th, 2010.

This action staves off a 21% pay cut for Part B fee screens scheduled for January 1st, 2010. Congress will continue to work in the new year on a physician fee schedule fix to extend beyond the new February 28th deadline.

In anticipation of the two-month freeze of Medicare payments to physicians and other Part B providers, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) also instructed its contractors to hold claims for the first 10 business days of January for 2010 dates of service.

This Part B fee screen rate change delay also pertains to the Therapy Part B fee screens paid to Skilled Nursing Facilities.