

November 29, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader Schumer, and Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the Endocrine Society, the world's largest professional organization of endocrinologists, I urge Congress to avert the upcoming Medicare cuts scheduled to occur on January 1, 2022. Founded in 1916, the Endocrine Society represents approximately 18,000 physicians and scientists engaged in the treatment and research of endocrine disorders, such as diabetes, hypertension, infertility, obesity, osteoporosis, endocrine cancers (i.e., thyroid, adrenal, ovarian, pituitary) and thyroid disease. Many of the patients our members treat are Medicare beneficiaries and these payment policies are of great importance. Without Congressional action, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will institute a series of cuts, which will result in a drastic reduction in Medicare reimbursement. The Society is very concerned that these scheduled cuts could result in an 9.75% physician payment reduction next year. This cut would be the result from the confluence of three policies, all of which Congress has the authority to address.

As you may know, the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) final rule includes a reduction of almost 4%, 3.75% of which would result from the expiration of \$3 billion in funding Congress provided in the MPFS in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. This money was provided to mitigate the decreases many services were facing resulting from the increases to the relative value units (RVUs) for the outpatient evaluation and management services. We urge you to extend the 3.75% payment adjustment which would ensure that payments for Part B physician services are not cut significantly. The second cut is a statutory PAYGO cut of 4 percent which resulted from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021's violation of the PAYGO policy. If this cut is not averted, it would be the first time Congress failed to waive statutory PAYGO requirements even though it is not the first time they would have been triggered. Finally, the Budget Control Act of 2011 mandated a 2 percent cut to Medicare payments known as sequestration. This cut has been suspended because of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, without congressional action this 2 percent reduction in reimbursement for all Medicare services also would go into effect on January 1, 2022.

We urge you to pass legislation to avert these cuts before the end of the year. These cuts, particularly the 3.75% cut to the MPFS conversion factor and the 4% PAYGO cut, would put a strain on our members and the critically important work they do to care for older Americans living with diabetes, obesity, and other endocrine disorders. Given the limited number of days remaining on the legislative calendar, we urge you to act now to prevent this potential crisis to our nation's healthcare system.



Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Rob Goldsmith, Director, Advocacy and Policy at [rgoldsmith@endocrine.org](mailto:rgoldsmith@endocrine.org).

Sincerely,

Carol H. Wysham, MD  
President  
Endocrine Society

Cc:

Chairman Richard Neal, House Ways & Means Committee  
Ranking Member Kevin Brady, House Ways & Means Committee  
Chairman Ron Wyden, Senate Finance Committee  
Ranking Member Mike Crapo, Senate Finance Committee