



# Proposed Medicare Payment Regulations for 2007

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The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued proposed regulations for the 2007 Medicare Fee Schedule. CMS is proposing a 5.1% reduction in the physician conversion formula for 2007 based on the statutory mandated Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula. This reduction would result in a 5.1% cut for all physician related services in 2007. This cut of 5.1% is greater than the expected cut

of 4.4%, which was proposed late last year. These cuts are quite severe and will certainly affect all physician practices nationwide.

CMS is also looking to revise the practice expense methodology. They are proposing to change the way practice-expense-payment calculations are made. There is some concern that this practice-expense-payment calculation will result in a decrease in the

relative value for office practice chemotherapy administration services. This would subsequently decrease chemotherapy payments substantially in the office setting. OA urges its members to reach out to their representatives in Congress and inform their elected representatives of the deleterious effect that any of these proposed CMS cuts will have on the care given to cancer patients in the office setting. **OA**



## Credible Patient Resources (C.P.R.)

### Jump Start Your Patients' Search for Reliable Web Information

*Cut and copy the following web links for a handy reference guide for your patients.*

#### **4anemia.com**

An unbranded educational site regarding the effect of anemia and fatigue induced by chemotherapy.

#### **allaboutmds.com**

Support for patients with MDS and their caretakers.

#### **cancer.com**

Provides CME-certified programs, conference coverage, treatment updates, web casts and interactive case challenges.

#### **clinicaloptions.com**

Provides CME-certified programs, conference coverage, treatment updates, web casts and interactive case challenges.

#### **LAF.org**

The Lance Armstrong Foundation provides practice information and tools for people living with cancer.

#### **patientaccessnetwork.org**

A non-profit organization dedicated to improving access to needed health services for insured patients who cannot afford the out-of-pocket costs associated with their treatment.

#### **pinkribbon.com**

A comprehensive breast cancer resource center.

#### **www.plwc.org**

The award-winning patient information website of ASCO.

#### **procritline.com**

Provides financial assistance for qualified individuals receiving Procrit therapy.

#### **strength4yourjourney.com**

An information-packed resource for newly-diagnosed cancer patients — from diagnosis to treatment.

#### **strengthforcaring.com**

A national program for caregivers of loved ones and family members with cancer.

#### **toomuchiron.com**

A resource for patients at risk for iron overload.