



Congress Passes Six-Month Delay of Physician Payment Cut

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At the end of December 2007, Congress passed and the President signed S.2499, the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007. This measure averted a 10.1 percent across-the-board cut to Medicare physician payments that was to begin January 1, 2008. This act also increased physician fees by 0.5 percent

until July 1, 2008. This legislative fix is a small measure designed to extend the current law without controversial new provisions. Additionally, this legislation does not address future physician pay cuts, which means the 10.1 percent or larger rate cut will go into effect July 1, 2008 if Congress does not take further action.

Oncology Associates will continue to monitor this situation and work with other organizations to prevent the scheduled cuts on July 1, 2008. We will continue to keep our members informed of any further congressional action that may be planned. **OA**

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