



## House Introduces Bill to Avert 2022 Medicare Payment Cuts

The House of Representatives unveiled a legislative package this afternoon that would avert looming Medicare payment cuts scheduling to take effect in January. The bill includes the following:

- An extension of Medicare sequestration relief first provided in the CARES Act through March 2022. From March through June 2022, a 1% sequester would be applied before returning to the pre-pandemic 2% sequester in July. This is paid for by increasing the sequester applied in 2030 – to 2.25% for the first half of the year and 3% for the second half.
- A 3% bump in the CY 2022 Physician Fee Schedule conversion factor (CF). This will result in a net -0.75% CF reduction from temporary increase enacted for CY 2021, but a 3% increase from CMS' final rule.
- A 1-year delay in CMMI's Radiation Oncology (RO) Alternative Payment Model, which would now begin on January 1, 2023.
- A provision preventing a new 4% Medicare sequester from taking effect. The bill advances FY 2022 PAYGO scorecard balances otherwise triggering a sequestration order into FY 2023, delaying the potential cuts.
- A 1-year delay in clinical lab reporting and payment cuts included in the Protecting Access to Medicare Act (PAMA) of 2014. The December 31, 2021 reporting deadline used to establish Medicare rates would be extended to December 31, 2022.

The House Rules Committee is meeting on the measure this afternoon, paving the way for floor consideration later today. The bill also includes a provision providing for the expedited consideration of legislation increasing the federal debt limit in the Senate. The Department of the Treasury has warned that Congress must increase the debt limit by December 15, 2021 to prevent adverse economic consequences.

The US Oncology Network recently sent Congressional leaders a letter warning of the impact of these Medicare cuts. To read a copy of the letter, please [CLICK HERE](#).

To read a copy of the bill, please [CLICK HERE](#).