



December 11, 2009

Charlene Frizzera, Acting Administrator  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
Department of Health and Human Services  
P.O. Box 8013  
Baltimore, MD 21244-8013

Dear Ms Frizzera:

I am writing to you a second time to vigorously urge you to expeditiously develop contingency plans and guidance for medical groups for use in the event that statutorily mandated cuts to the sustainable growth rate (SGR) are implemented and subsequently reversed by Congressional intervention. In early 2006 a similar situation arose and we appreciated the fact that medical groups were spared the burden of having to resubmit claims.

However, the situation still created substantial administrative difficulties and a chaotic first half of 2006 as providers sought to reprocess the additional payments and explain to their Medicare patients, many of whom were confused, why they needed to recoup additional co-payments for services they believed they had already paid in full.

Therefore, I strongly encourage CMS to begin, as soon as practicable, outreach to patients and the physician community describing your contingency plans and to provide guidance to medical practices of your plans and requirements. These critical steps will help to mitigate operational and financial disruptions. You may contact Karen Ferguson, of my staff, at [kferguson@amga.org](mailto:kferguson@amga.org) or 703-838-0033x349, with any questions, or if we may be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald W. Fisher", is written in a cursive style.

Donald W. Fisher, Ph.D.  
President and CEO

