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SGR Update: House Passes Bill to Fix SGR

On Tuesday, the US House of Representatives passed a bill (HR 3630) that would avert the 27.4% SGR related Medicare payment cut for the next 2 years. Under this bill Medicare rates would increase by 1% on January 1, 2012 and by an additional 1% on January 1, 2013. While this would appear to be good news for physicians, it should be tempered by the fact that the bill is not likely to pass the Senate due to other spending policies contained in the bill such as cuts to hospital payments, Rural Health Clinics, and skilled nursing facilities, as well as construction of the Keystone Oil pipeline and reforms to unemployment insurance programs.

Although the House and Senate appear to be in agreement the SGR cuts must be averted, the two bodies are at significant odds over how to pay for such a fix. In contrast to the House's preference toward reducing expenditures, the Senate majority appears to favor raising taxes on the wealthy as the principle means of offsetting the SGR fix.

If you have any questions about the SGR cuts please contact Jay Packer at (562) 809-3521 or jpacker@marinabilling.com.

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