

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Karen Linsteadt, CPC, CHBME, of Med Group Billings & Collections, Inc. participated in the Healthcare Billing and Management Association's Hill Day in Washington, DC. She met with representatives for Sen. John Cornyn, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchinson and Rep. Sam Johnson.

On September 11, 2012, representative of 75 third party medical billing companies met with their state representatives to lobby and discuss pressing issues for physician practices and billing companies.

First and foremost was the discussion of the looming Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) cuts that are set to take effect on January 1, 2013. These cuts will result in a 27% cut in physician reimbursement causing many physicians to limit access to care for Medicare beneficiaries.

Congress has postponed the cuts every year since 2003. However, in many of these previous years the decision on the final fee schedule is not made until after January 1st. The result of a late decision is a massive reprocessing of claims by Medicare, all healthcare providers and Medicare patients that may owe additional amounts. The differences are usually small amounts under a dollar but have to be posted line by line to ensure that secondary claims are paid correctly and the correct co insurance is collected from the patient.

“Our message to our Health Staff of the US House of Representatives and United States Senate was that we need a permanent fix to the SGR problem” says Karen Linsteadt. “However, if you must have another temporary fix please do it prior to January 1, 2013 as to not create an additional administrative burden on healthcare providers to post small payment and adjustment amount to every claim processed prior to a retroactive decision”.

HBMA members also discussed ways to reduce other administrative burdens such as credentialing. There are currently many different credentialing forms for every insurance company (Medicare, Medicaid and each Commercial Payer). All of these forms request the same information just in a different format and they are very long forms. If there was one standardized form that could be used for all insurance credentialing of providers this would reduce the cost of the time spent to complete all of these different applications.

Med Group Billings & Collections, Inc. is a third party physician billing company serving Texas physicians.