

Your Mission on Capitol Hill

Urge your legislators and their staff to:

- 1. REJECT** arbitrary **cuts to Medicare and Medicaid funding** for hospital services, and support real solutions as Congress looks for ways to reduce the nation's deficit.
(See reverse side for more.)
- 2. DELAY** the **disproportionate share hospital (DSH) payment cuts** in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to allow for coverage expansions to be more fully realized and better data to become available.
- 3. SUPPORT** the passage of the **Medicare Audit Improvement Act of 2013**, which would improve auditor performance, increase transparency and permit hospitals to rebill denied claims without unreasonable restrictions.



Healthy Solutions, Not Harmful Cuts

Hospitals' ability to maintain access to care is threatened by repeated ratcheting of Medicare and Medicaid payments for hospital services.

Hospitals have already been subjected to more than \$250 billion in reductions since 2010, including more than \$14 billion in the recently enacted American Taxpayer Relief Act, and cannot sustain any additional cuts. Take this opportunity with your legislators' staff to drive home the point that further cuts will only increase hospitals' challenges and could in turn limit patients' access to care.

1. Set Out the Challenge

Paint a quick picture of your organization and the tough challenges you face in providing timely access to essential services and the latest treatments and technology to your patients and community.

2. Share What You're Doing

Describe all you're doing to increase value, improve performance and enhance quality and patient safety.

3. Offer Alternatives and Solutions

Urge support for alternatives to reduce the deficit that represent real solutions to achieve efficiencies and savings – and reject further arbitrary cuts to funding for hospital services.

Some alternatives to consider:

- Develop programs to coordinate care for individuals eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid
- Eliminate barriers to developing integrated care models
- Reduce Medicare costs by changing cost-sharing structures for Parts A and B
- Increase the eligibility age for Medicare now that other coverage options are available to those individuals
- Modernize the Medicaid long-term care benefit
- Enact medical liability reform
- Reform Medigap

We need real, **long-term solutions** to strengthen our nation's health care system, **not arbitrary cuts** that undermine hospitals' ability to care.