

Dear Patient,

We are certain that all of you are quite concerned with the proposed 2010 Medicare cuts. While we have no objection to change and innovation, we are concerned about several aspects of possible new legislation.

No medical subspecialty in the last 30 to 35 years has enjoyed more innovation, improved health care and longevity than cardiology. The widespread introduction of cardiac surgery, coronary angioplasty, coronary stents, pacemakers, defibrillators and countless new cardiac medications have improved lifespan and the quality of life immensely. Many of you are beneficiaries of these innovations.

The proposed 2010 Medicare cuts will limit your access to Cardiovascular care. Effective January 1, 2010, Medicare will drastically reduce the benefits for seniors and cut reimbursement by as much as 60%. This will have a crippling effect on your health care. You will be forced to seek the majority of your care through the hospital while at the same time increasing your out of pocket expense. This will lead to limited access and rationing of care which will exponentially increase the hardship to you.

We are inviting you to join us to raise awareness and speak with a united voice, patients and their physicians, on August 21, 2009. **This day has been declared "Florida Heart Day"**. If you are unable to attend the rally we urge you to contact your State Representatives via phone or in writing to get your voice heard. Please see the attached sample letter to assist you. We have also included the contact information for your Representatives.

Protect your health.

Very truly yours,

The Physicians of Central Florida Cardiology Group P.A.

FLORIDA HEART DAY RALLY

Sponsored by the American College of Cardiology, Florida Chapter

WHY: To stop the proposed 2010 Medicare cuts, which will limit your access to Cardiovascular care.

Starting in 2010, Medicare has drastically reduced the benefits for seniors and cut reimbursement by as much as 60%.

This will have a crippling effect on your health care, especially Cardiovascular care, in Florida.

Many Specialists and Cardiologists will be forced to close their offices and relocate to a different state.

The patient will be forced to seek care through the hospital, increasing patient's out of pocket expense.

This will lead to limiting access and rationing of care and will exponentially increase hardships for our patients.

It has taken many years to build a high quality, efficient, proactive health care system in the State of Florida and all of this could be destroyed by these devastating Medicare cuts.

To raise awareness and speak with a united voice, patients and their physicians are conducting a health care advocacy rally on August 21, 2009.

We are declaring this day: ***"Florida Heart Day."***

Please join us.

WHERE: Lake Eola Park in downtown Orlando, 195 N. Rosalind Ave.

WHEN: Friday, August 21st between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm

WHAT SHOULD I DO: Sign up for the rally on the attached signup sheet.
Come to the rally and voice your opinion.

HOW DO I GET THERE? Buses will be provided at central locations that will be announced later. The buses will take you to the rally between 8:00 am and 10:00 am and will bring you back between 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm.

FLORIDA
heart DAY



Sample Letter to Congress About Access to Cardiovascular Care

Dear **[Enter Name of Representative or Senator]**

I am sending this note to express my concerns about my ability to continue to get the cardiovascular care I need given the drastic Medicare payment cuts proposed for cardiologists next year.

As a Medicare patient under the care of a cardiologist, I am concerned that my physician may no longer be able to treat me or other Medicare patients as a result of these and other cuts. Already, many practices across the country are being forced to consider drastic options, whether it's laying off key support staff or limiting new Medicare patients.

I cannot afford to find a new doctor, nor can I afford higher co-payments or extra trips to the hospital for procedures like medical imaging. As you consider Medicare legislation over the next few months, I urge you to consider the impacts of the reimbursement cuts not only on physicians, but on patients like me. Please help stop the cuts and help ensure **[State]** cardiologists and other specialists not only stay in **[State]** but are able to provide the best possible care.

Sincerely,
[Name of Patient]

CONTACTING CONGRESS

The Honorable Tom Rooney

United States House of Representatives
1529 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Phone Number: 202-225-5792
Fax Number: 202-225-3132
WWW Homepage: <http://rooney.house.gov/>

The Honorable Mel Martinez

United States Senate
356 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Phone Number: 202-224-3041
Fax Number: 202-228-5171
WWW Homepage: <http://martinez.senate.gov/public/>

The Honorable Bill Nelson

United States Senate
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Phone Number: 202-224-5274
Fax Number: 202-228-2183
WWW Homepage: <http://billnelson.senate.gov/>

The Honorable Corrine Brown

United States House of Representatives
2336 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Phone Number: 202-225-0123
Fax Number: 202-225-2256
WWW Homepage: <http://www.house.gov/corrinebrown/>

The Honorable Alan Grayson

United States House of Representatives
1605 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Phone Number: 202-225-2176
Fax Number: 202-225-0999
WWW Homepage: <http://grayson.house.gov/>

The Honorable Bill Posey

United States House of Representatives
132 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Phone Number: 202-225-3671
Fax Number: 202-225-3516
WWW Homepage: <http://posey.house.gov/>

The Honorable Suzanne Kosmas

United States House of Representatives
238 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Phone Number: 202-225-2706
Fax Number: 202-226-6299
WWW Homepage: <http://kosmas.house.gov/>