

# UMeNewsletter

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### **CMS Will Hold Claims Beginning June 1**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) believes Congress will work to avert the 21 percent negative cut retroactive to June 1. To avoid disruption in the delivery of health care services to beneficiaries and payment of claims for physicians, CMS has instructed its contractors to hold claims containing services for the first 10 business days of June.

This hold should have minimum impact on provider cash flow because, under the current law, clean electronic claims are not paid any sooner than 14 calendar days (29 for paper claims) after the date of receipt. Be on the alert for more information about the 2010 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Update.

### **FTC Delays Red Flags Rule to December 31**

The Federal Trade Commission announced May 28, 2010, that at the request of several members of Congress, it is delaying enforcement of the Red Flags Rule through December 31, 2010, while Congress considers legislation that would affect the scope of entities covered by the rule. The rule had been scheduled to go into effect June 1, 2010.

The AMA, American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the Medical Society of the District of Columbia (MSDC) have filed a suit in federal court seeking to prevent the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) from extending the Red Flags identity theft regulations to physicians. The complaint targets the rule which requires creditors to implement safeguards against identity theft. The medical societies charge that the FTC's rule exceeds the powers delegated to it by Congress and that its application to physicians is "arbitrary, capricious and contrary to the law."

*\*\* Info source from Medical Society of Delaware \*\**

