



Anesthesiology News Updates

MARCH 2013

CMS announces details on implementing sequestration cuts to Medicare claims

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the following message today regarding Medicare claims and the upcoming sequestration payment cuts: [Read More](#)

BCBS and new Health Insurance Exchange (HIX) networks

[BCBS is setting up an exchange](#) using Medicare as a benchmark. It's not necessary to sign up at this time, ResourceOne is meeting with BCBS to discuss the fact that Medicare is not the right benchmark to use and come up with a more reasonable compensation arrangement. [Read More](#)

Two's Company, Three's a Crowd: Company Model Deals in the Hospital Setting

As readers of *Anesthesiology News* undoubtedly are aware, for the past four decades, the predominant relationship between anesthesiologists and hospitals has been through anesthesia groups, which more often than not hold an exclusive contract for all anesthesia services at the hospital. [Read More](#)

ASA Urges Issuance of Federal Fraud Alert on the 'Company Model'

On February 26, 2013, ASA formally urged the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG) to issue a special fraud alert regarding the "company model" and to modify existing safe harbors to prevent referring physicians from profiting from their referrals for anesthesia services. [Read More](#)

BlueCross BlueShield designates S.C. hospitals for specialty care

Columbia-based BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina has designated 20 hospitals as "Blue Distinction Centers" for special care in the areas of spine surgery and knee and hip replacement. [Read More](#)

MedPAC Head Pushes for SGR Repeal Now

The sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula—the physician payment formula for Medicare – should be repealed immediately, said Glenn M. Hackbarth, chair of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) in testimony before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Health. [Read More](#)

20 S.C. hospitals collaborating to improve patient outcomes

Upstate health systems are joining a three-year, statewide initiative to streamline health care, improve patient outcomes and reduce costs. [Read More](#)