

## **Internal Medicine Coding Alert**

### **Legislative Update: Proposal to Charge Physician 'User Fees' for Medicare Fails to Pass Congress**

Internal medicine practices can breathe a little easier now that proposed legislation that would have charged physicians a \$100 enrollment fee to participate in Medicare has failed to obtain Congressional approval.

In addition to the enrollment fee, the bill would have required a \$25 annual re-enrollment charge; a \$1.00 fee for each paper claim submitted; and a \$1.00 fee for every duplicate or unprocessable claim submitted.

The American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine (ACP-ASIM), lobbied strongly against the legislation, which was to have been included in the last-minute omnibus appropriations bill that must be passed each year to keep the government running.

The budget bill that passed on October 21 did not include the user fee measure.