

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

Will 2007 Budget Include Medicare Cuts?

House lawmakers broke for a two-week Easter recess without voting on a fiscal year 2007 budget resolution. Disagreements between conservative and moderate Republicans over items including Medicare and Medicaid cuts stalled the legislation after it was passed without Medicare cuts by the **House Budget Committee**.

The Budget Committee's resolution did instruct the **Ways and Means Committee** to come up with \$4 billion in savings over the next five years, but lawmakers insisted those cuts wouldn't come out of Medicare.

Whether the House will take up the budget resolution when it returns from recess is unclear. **President Bush** says he will veto any budget legislation that does not include cuts his Administration recommended earlier this year, including reductions to home health agency and hospice payment rates.