

THE RIGHT CARE AT THE RIGHT TIME SAVES LIVES

Over the last 30 years, significant advances have been made in diagnosing and treating heart disease — the number one killer in the United States. In the last decade alone, heart disease-related deaths have dropped by 27 percent. These dramatic results reflect the benefits of public education and awareness combined with a sophisticated system of diagnosis and treatment.

Unfortunately, Medicare policies over the last several years have ignored these statistics and consistently reduced payment for office and community-based cardiac services. The most recent cuts, which took effect on Jan. 1, are the final blow to the vast majority of Cardiology patients in Florida who rely on Medicare.

Already many practices, particularly in rural and inner-city areas, have been forced to lay off staff, limit services and/or sell to hospitals. This is only the beginning. This dismantling of a successful outpatient infrastructure will inevitably mean longer waits, higher co-pays and more costly trips to the hospital for treatment and diagnostic services.

Are Congress and the Administration prepared to be responsible for the human and material costs associated with this bad policy? These cuts in Medicare will drastically **REDUCE YOUR ACCESS TO CARE and INCREASE YOUR COST OF CARE.**



»» ***We need your help in contacting legislators! Tell your members of Congress to stop these Medicare cuts and protect your access to cardiac care.***



Florida
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Your Cardiologist, the Florida Chapter of the ACC, and the American College of Cardiology are fighting these cuts!

