

An open letter to our patients:

The 2010 Medicare Fee Schedule mandates that on January 1, 2010 severe cuts in cardiology physician fees will begin. This cut is being phased in over four years because the government used flawed data to make their calculations. In addition, there are Congressionally mandated cuts of more than 20 percent to all Medicare physician fees, regardless of specialty. The result of these combined government policies are that our practice is facing payment cuts ranging from 25 to almost 50 percent.

Such drastic reduction in fees are going to seriously hamper our ability to continue to see you, our patients, as we do today. We feel the need to warn you that these reductions will translate into **EACH PRACTICE NEEDS TO INSERT SPECIFICS HERE**. Making will sure you have the best quality of care will always be our number one priority. Caring for people is why we all dedicated our lives to heart patients. In the very near future - it is going to be a difficult climate to operate in our current manner.

We have built our office facility and trained our staff to best take care of each patient. We believe that the care you receive is critical to your quality of life. With these cuts we may not be able to provide some of the services that patients have come to depend on and in the long run; if the current policies are not changed, we may force us to close our doors.

As a cardiovascular patient we urge you to contact our lawmakers (see attached for their information) about the impact of our changing practice on you. The law is clear - we face cuts unless Congress acts. In advance we thank you for understanding our changing environment.

Sincerely,

SIGN PRACTICE NAMES