

Title:

Budget Cuts May Harm Access To Imaging

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Summary:

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Keywords:

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Article Body:

Cuts to the Medicare budget may be the most threatening surgery of all for patients in need of

Congress made deep cuts earlier this year in reimbursement for many medical imaging services t

Experts fear these cuts will mean less access and higher costs for many patients, especially t

Congress, say advocates, should impose a two-year moratorium on the cuts in order to more full

Starting in 2007, imaging services will be reduced by Congress by some \$8 billion over 10 year

The payment reductions affect a wide range of medical procedures and tests provided in physici

• 35 percent for ultrasound to guide less-invasive breast biopsies;

• 50 percent for PET/CT scans used for diagnosing and managing tumors;

• 40 percent for bone density studies for diagnosing osteoporosis; and

• 42 percent for MR angiography that detects aneurysms in the head.

Given the size of these and similar cuts, advocates warn that many physicians will likely disc

It's believed that patients in rural areas are likely to be the hardest hit.

Unfortunately, say advocates such as the Access to Medical Imaging Coalition, these reductions

Instead, the Coalition believes Congress should impose a two-year moratorium on imaging cuts,

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