

## **CONGRESS IS CONSIDERING AN INCREASE IN YOUR MEDICARE COINSURANCE RATES -----HELP YOUR LAB TO STOP THIS EFFORT NOW!**

**ACTION REQUEST:** Call your Members of Congress and tell them **NO** to an increase in Medicare coinsurance rates and to placing new Medicare coinsurance requirements on clinical laboratory services!

**BACKGROUND:** To generate additional revenue and address the federal debt, Congress is considering an increase to your Medicare coinsurance rates for Medicare Part B services\*. This coinsurance rate may go as high as 20 percent of the cost of those services. As part of this increase, Congress is also considering a new coinsurance requirement on your laboratory services. Currently, there is no coinsurance requirement for your laboratory services.

[\*Medicare Part B services include all medically necessary services, such as doctor visits, outpatient care, laboratory services, home health services, and preventive services.]

### **THE PROCESS:**

1. If you already know who your Member of Congress and your two Senators are, call the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and ask to be connected.
2. If you do not know who your Member in the House of Representatives is go to: <http://www.house.gov/> and enter your zip code in the top right hand corner of the page.
3. If you do not know who your two Senators are go to: <http://www.senate.gov/> and use the drop down box in the top right hand corner to select your state. Every state has two Senators representing the entire state. Please contact both of your Senators!
4. When you are connected to the office ask to speak to the Health Legislative Assistant. If you are connected directly to the staffer, please introduce yourself and be prepared to explain some of the information from the script below. If you are connected to the staffers' voicemail, again, introduce yourself and be sure to leave your contact information clearly in the message; you should also outline some of the main points from below.

**THE MESSAGE:** Please use the bullet points below to develop a personalized message for your Members of Congress. Be prepared to speak to a staffer in your Representative and Senators' offices about these key issues. **Remember to leave your contact information!**

- I live in (city, state) and receive my health care services through Medicare.
- I understand Congress is looking at ways to address the federal budget. As part of that effort, Congress may soon consider increasing my Medicare Part B coinsurance rates and imposing new coinsurance requirements on my laboratory services. I am calling to voice my concern and express my strong opposition to these efforts.
- Asking me and seniors like me to pay more for my Medicare services is unreasonable.
- Adding new fees to my other health care services, including clinical lab tests that are necessary for my doctor to make medical decisions about my care is wrong.
- Do not try to balance the budget on the backs of America's seniors.