

Texas Medical Association Video: Grandma and the Big Bad SGR

I haven't written much about the impending 29% Medicare physician payment cut. This threatened cut has happened every year for the past 10 years. Every year at the last second, Washington is convinced that if cuts take place, physicians really will stop seeing Medicare patients and they halt the cut.

It's not a bluff. Physicians can't afford to see Medicare patients, TriCare (ex-military) patients and disabled patients with Medicare benefits now, and they will drop out by the tens of thousands if they get paid any less. Any businessperson worth their salt will tell you that when revenue does not exceed expenses, you do not have a sustainable business model. Physicians have cut expenses to the bone, taken deep cuts in their salaries and ultimately have sold their practices when they just can't make it anymore.

But never mind the doctor, what about the patients? What happens to them when physicians stop seeing Medicare patients? **Texas Medical Association** has made an outstanding video that explains it in language we can all understand.

Other organizations that are working to eliminate physician reimbursement being tied to the SGR are **MGMA** and the **AMA**.