

Bill with Medicare SGR “patch” not expected to pass House

MAG has learned that the U.S. House of Representatives will reportedly consider “extender” legislation (H.R. 4213) on Friday, May 28 that contains a \$22.9 billion Medicare “patch” – though it’s not expected to pass given the overall cost of the bill.

The proposal would increase Medicare physician payment by 2.2 percent for the remainder of 2010 and another 1 percent in 2011 – but it would also then revert to the current SGR formula in 2012, resulting in a cut that’s been placed at 30 percent or more.

Given a week-long Memorial Day holiday recess, it’s not clear if lawmakers have enough time to pass legislation to stop the 21 percent Medicare physician pay cut that is scheduled to go into effect on June 1, when the most recent extension expires.

Monitor www.mag.org for the latest Medicare SGR developments.