

S. 3915, Medicare Rural Physician Recruitment and Retention Act

Sponsor: Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-AR)

Cosponsors: None

Summary:

- ***Medicare SGR Physician Payment***
 - Continues current SGR patch through December 31, 2010.
 - Sunsets/repeals SGR.
 - Starting in 2011, Medicare physician payment would be updated based on the Medicare Economic Index (MEI).
- ***Medicare Geographic Adjustment Factors***
 - Extends the 1.0 floor for the work geographic index.
 - Adjustments will not be applied in a budget neutral manner.
- ***Repeals PPACA Practice Expense Geographic Adjustment***
 - Repeals sections 3102(b) and 10324(c) from PPACA related to Practice Expense Geographic Adjustment.
- ***Distribution of Additional Residency Positions***
 - Increases by 15% the number of additional residency positions available for distribution.
 - In distributing additional slots, the Secretary is required to take into account the demonstrated likelihood of an applicant hospital filling the positions within the first 3 cost reporting periods.
 - Preference is given to hospitals in States that are in the lowest quartile of active physician-to-population ratio.