

ICD-10 Delayed and New Legislation for Long Term Care.

On April 1, President Obama signed into law the temporary Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) "doc fix" delaying the implementation of ICD-10 by at least one year, moving the implementation date from October 1, 2014 to not before October 1, 2015. In addition to the ICD-10 delay, there are several provisions of the law that have significant impact on SNFs and post-acute care including:

- A new value-based purchasing program for skilled nursing facilities, with new quality reporting and value-based incentives. A value-based purchasing program would make incentive payments to SNFs for services provided on or after Oct. 1, 2018. The program will tie payments to SNF performance on a readmission measure to be later established by October 1, 2016.
- Delay in enforcement of the two midnight rule through March 31, 2015, "unless there is evidence of systematic gaming, fraud, abuse, or delays in the provision of care by a provider of services."
- The new law extends the exceptions process for outpatient therapy caps through March 31, 2015. In addition, the new law extends the application of the caps, exceptions process and threshold to therapy services furnished in a hospital outpatient department (OPD).