Physicians Get 6-Month Reprieve From Pay Cut

BY MARY ELLEN SCHNEIDER

New York Bureau

n what has become a year-end tradition, last-minute congressional action has staved off deep cuts to the Medicare physician fee schedule.

The 2007 version means physicians won't feel the pinch of a 10.1% pay cut under Medicare; instead, they will get a 0.5% increase through June 30, 2008, thanks to House and Senate passage of S.

2499. At press time, the legislation was expected to be signed by President Bush.

Unless Congress acts again this year, even deeper cuts in payments to physicians will occur at midyear.

"It creates a tremendous degree of instability in the system," said Robert Doherty, senior vice president for governmental affairs and public policy at the American College of Physicians.

Many physician practices are small businesses, and it's difficult for physicians to make a business plan for the year when they can only calculate Medicare revenues for the first 6 months. Mr. Doherty said, adding that if Medicare payments make up 30%-40% of a practice's revenues, the impact can be substantial.

Officials at the American Medical Association also expressed disappointment with the legislation.

We strongly urge Congress to break the tradition of short-term interventions that are not funded and fail to chart a course for replacing a flawed payment formula that is a barrier to improving quality and access to care for seniors," Dr. Edward Langston, AMA board chair, said in a statement.

By law, officials at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services must adjust physician payments according to the sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula, which calculates physician payment based in part on the gross domestic product. Medical professional societies have been lobbying for years to eliminate the formula, which they argue does not adequately account for rising practice costs.

Since the legislation passed at year-end did not deal with the SGR, physicians will face even more significant pay cuts in July and again in January 2009 unless Congress acts over the next few months.

Members of the House worked to address the scheduled physician pay cut under Medicare and other health reforms last August. At that time, the House passed a bill that would have given physicians a 0.5% payment update for 2008 and 2009. In addition, the bill would have provided a new physician payment structure with a separate conversion factor for six service categories. That legislation could not gain traction in the Senate.

This time around, however, Congress passed a scaled-down package that could pass both chambers overwhelmingly and would not encounter a veto threat from President Bush.

The House Democratic leadership expressed disappointment that the bill did not address some of the issues included in the August bill, such as eliminating overpayments to Medicare Advantage plans. The leadership has pledged to continue negotiations on more comprehensive legislation this year.

Medical professional societies will spend the next few months working with members of Congress to try to avert the scheduled cut from taking effect in July. For its part, ACP is planning a new grassroots campaign to let members of Congress know what physicians are doing now as a result of the unpredictable Medicare payment situation. These anecdotes won't be hypothetical, Mr. Doherty explained, but will describe what physicians are doing today.

In addition to halting the physician pay cut for 6 months, the recently passed legislation extends the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative program for 2008. The program, which launched in July 2007, allows physicians to earn up to 1.5% of their total allowed Medicare charges if they report on certain quality data. This program could be of more interest to physicians this time around, Mr. Doherty said, since it's an opportunity for them to increase their revenues from Medicare.

The bill also extends the Special Diabetes Program through Sept. 30, 2009. The program was established to fund type 1 diabetes research, and type 2 diabetes treatment and prevention for Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

The bill also will extend for 6 months provisions to aid physicians practicing in shortage areas.

BRIEF SUMMARY: Consult the Full Prescribing Info

AMPHETAMINES HAVE A HIGH POTENTIAL FOR ABUSE. ADMINISTRATION OF AMPHETAMINES FOR PROLONGED PERIODS OF TIME MAY LEAD TO DRUG DEPENDENCE, PARTICULAR ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID TO THE POSSIBILITY OF SUBJECTS OBTAINING AMPHETAMINES FOR NON-THERAPEUTIC USE OR DISTRIBUTION TO OTHERS AND THE DRUGS SHOULD BE PRESCRIBED OR DISTRIBUTION SPRAINGLY.

MISUSE OF AMPHETAMINE MAY CAUSE SUDDEN DEATH AND SERIOUS CARDIOVASCULAR ADVERSE EVENTS.

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Wycanse is indicated for the treatment of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

The efficacy of Vycanse in the treatment of Adhention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

The efficacy of Vycanse in the treatment of ADHD was established on the basis of two controlled trials in children aged 6 to 12, who met DSM-I/W criteria for ADHD (see CLINICAL TRIALS).

A diagnosis of Altention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD, DSM-I/W) implies the presence of hyperactive-impulsive or inattentive symptoms that caused impairment and were present before age 7 years. The symptoms must cause clinically significant impairment, in social, academic, or occupational functioning, and be present in two or more settings, e.g., at school (or work) and at home. The symptoms must not be better accounted for by another mental disorder. For the intentive type, at least six of the following symptoms must have persisted for at least 5 months; tack of attention to detaliscareless mistakes, tack of assistance distention; poor listener, the properties of the control of of the properties of the control of the properties of the control of

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Advanced arterioscierosis, symptomatic cardiovascular disease, moderate to severe hypertension, hyperthyroidism, known hypers or dilosyncrasy to the sympathomimetic amines, glaucoma.

itated states. Ients with a history of drug abuse. ring or within 14 days following the administration of monoamine oxidase inhibitors (hypertensive crises may result).

Children and Adolescents. Sudden death has been reported in association with CNS stimulant treatment at usual doses in children and adolescents with structural cardiac abnormalities or other serious heart problems. Although some serious heart problems alone carry an increased risk of sudeath, stimulant products generally should not be used in children or adolescents with known serious structural cardiac abnormalities, cardiomyopathy, serious heart rhythm abnormalities, or other serious cardiac problems that may place them at increased vulnerability to the sympathorimetic effects of a stimulant drug (see CONTRAINDICATIONS).

s en deaths, stroke, and myocardial infarction have been reported in adults taking stimulant drugs at usual doses for ADHD. A led of stimulants in these adult cases is also unknown, adults have a greater likelihood than children of having serious st candomyotalty, serious heart hythm abnormalities, coronary artery disease, or other serious cardiac pr tension and other should also generally not be treated with stimulant drugs (see CONTRAINDICATIONS). Tension and other Cardiovascular Conditions

rypertension and other Cardiovascular Conditions
Stimulant medications cause a modest increase in average blood pressure (about 2-4 mmHg) and average heart rate (about 3-6 bpm), and individuals may have larger increases. While the mean changes alone would not be expected to have short-term consequences, all patients should be monitored for larger changes in heart rate and blood pressure. Caution is indicated in treating patients whose underlying medical conditions might be compromised by increases in blood pressure caution is indicated in treating patients whose underlying medical conditions might be compromised by increases in blood pressure or heart rate, e.g., those with pre-existing hypertension, heart failure, recent myocardial infaction, or ventricular arriythmic less CONTRAINDICATIONS). Assessing Cardiovascular Status in Patients being Treated with Stimulant Medications Children, adolescents, or adults who are being considered for treatment with stimulant medications should have a careful history (including assessment for a family history of sudden death or ventricular arriythmical) and physical exam to assess for the presence of cardiac disease, and should receive further cardiac evaluation if findings suggests exclud disease (e.g. electrocardiogram and echocardiogram. Patients who develop symptoms such as exertional chest pain, unexplained syncope, or other symptoms suggestive of cardiac disease during stimulant reatment should undergo a prompt cardiac evaluation.

Psychiatric Adverse Events

Pre-Esting Psychosis

Administration of stimulants may exacerbate symptoms of behavior.

stimulants cause aggressive behavior or hostility, patients beginning treatment for ADHD should be monitored for the appearance of control of aggressive behavior or hostility.

Control of aggressive behavior and the property of the proper

with stimulants, and patients wno are not growing or gaining weight as expected may have a believe that stimulants may lower the convulsive threshold in patients with prior history of seizure, in patients with prior EEG abnormalities in absence of seizures, and very rarely, in patients without a history of seizures and no prior EEG evidence of seizures. In the presence of seizures, the drug should be discontinued.

Visual Disturbance

Difficulties with accommodation and blurring of vision have been reported with stimulant treatment.

intenamine therapy — Urnary excretion of amphetamines is increased, and emicacy is reduced by aciditying agents used in thenamine therapy.

replinghrine — Amphetamines enhance the adrenergic effect of norepinephrine.

enobabilial — Amphetamines may delay intestinal absorption of phenobarbital; co-administration of phenobarbital may produce a representation of phenobarbital may produce a

tic anticonvulsant action.

In — Amphetamines may delay intestinal absorption of phenytoin; co-administration of phenytoin may produce a synergistic ulsant action.

"Ampleatament and yeary miserian assurption to prelimpting, or uniformative productions and action assets of proposyphene overdosage, amphetamine CNS stimulation is potentiated and fatal convulsions can occur.
Contract Standards — Amphetamines inhibit the hypotensive effect of veratrum alkaloids.** — Amphetamines tan birbit the hypotensive effect of veratrum alkaloids.** — Amphetamines tan exaces a significant elevation in plasma corticosteroid levels. This increase is soft in the evening. Amphetamines may interfere with urinary steroid determinations.
**nogenesis/Mulagenesis and Impairment of Fertility Cartionopenicity studies of lidescamfetamine have not been performed,
riddness of carcinopenicity was found in studies in which d. 1-amphetamine (enantiomer ratio of 1:1) was administered to mice and rats
diet for 2 years at doses of up to 30 mg/kg/dg/s in ale miee, 19 mg/kg/dg/s in fernale mice, and 5 mg/kg/dg/s in enale mice, and 5 mg/kg/dg/s in fernale mice, and 5 mg/kg/dg/s in enale may always the standard in the 1738YTK* — mouse bymphoma assay in wifro.
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**retaining (d to I enantiomer ratio of 3:1) did not adversely affect fertility or early embryonic development in the rat at doses of up
mg/kg/dg/.

Amphetamine (d foll enantiomer ratio of 3:1) did not adversely affect fertility or early embryonic development in the rat at doses or up to 20 mg/kg/dy.

Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category C. Reproduction studies of lisdexamfetamine have not been performed.

Amphetamine (d to I enantiomer ratio of 3:1) had no apparent effects on embryofetal morphological development or survival when orally administered to pregnant rats and rabbits throughout the period of organogenesis at doses of up to 6 and 16 mg/kg/day, respectively. Fetal malformations and death have been reported in mice following parenteral administration of destroamphetamine dose of 50 mg/kg/day or greater to pregnant animals. Administration of these doses was also associated with severe maternal broad to 50 mg/kg/day or greater to pregnant animals. Administration of these doses was also associated with severe maternal tool; No. A number of studies in rodents indicate that prenatal or early postnatal exposure to amphetamine (4 or d.)-1 at doses similar to title. A number of studies in rodents indicate that prenatal or early postnatal exposure to amphetamine (4 or d.)-1 at doses similar to total towards and the prenatal or early postnatal exposure to amphetamine (4 or d.)-1 at doses similar to but on the complex of the prenature deficiency and the prenature deficiency and the prenature deficiency and an administration of the prenature deficiency and low birth weight. Also, these infants may experience symptoms of withdrawal as demonstrated by dysphoria, including agitation, and significant tassitude. Usage in Nursing Mothers: Amphetamines sale and the first of the feature.

Usage in Nursing Mothers: Amphetamines are excreted in human milk. Mothers taking amphetamines should be advised to refrain from nursing.

Pediatric Use: Vyvanse is indicated for use in children aged 6 to 12 years.

A study was conducted in which juvenile rats received oral doses of 4, 10, or 40 mg/kg/day of lisdexamfetamine from day 7 to day 63 of age. These doses are approximately 0.3, 0.7, and 3 times the maximum recommended human daily dose of 70 mg dng on a mg/m² basis. Dose-related decreases in food consumption, bodyweight gain, and crown-rump length wers even; after a four week drive receivery period bodyweights and crown-rump lengths had significantly recovered in females but were still substantially reduced in males. Time to vaginal opening was delayed in females at the highest dose, but there were not drug effects on fertility when the animals were mated beginning on day 85 of age.

In a study in which juvenile dogs received lisdexamfetamine for 6 months beginning at 10 weeks of age, decreased bodyweight gain was seen at all doses tested (2, 5, and 12 mg/kg/day, which are approximately 0.5, 1, and 3 times the maximum recommended human daily dose on a mg/m² basis.) This effect partially or fully reversed during a four week drug-ree recovery period.

Use in Children under Six Years of Age: Lisdexamfetamine dimesylate has not been studied in 3-5 year olds. Long-term effects of amphetamines in children have not been well established. Amphetamines are not recommended for use in children aven on the envel established. Amphetamines are not recommended to use in children aven on the envel established. Amphetamines are not recommended to use in children aven on the envel established. Amphetamines are not recommended to use in children have not been well established. Amphetamines are not recommended to use in children aven on the envel established. Amphetamines are not recommended to use in children aven on the envel established. Amphetamines are not recommended to use in children aven on the envel established.

Table 1 Adverse Events Reported by 2% or More of Pediatric Patients Taking Vyvanse in a 4 Week Clinical Trial			
Body System	Preferred Term	Vyvanse (n=218)	Placebo (n=72)
Gastrointestinal Disorders	Abdominal Pain Upper Dry Mouth Nausea Vomiting	12% 5% 6% 9%	6% 0% 3% 4%
General Disorder and Administration Site Conditions	Pyrexia	2%	1%
Investigations	Weight Decreased	9%	1%
Metabolism and Nutrition	Decreased Appetite	39%	4%
Nervous System Disorders	Dizziness Headache Somnolence	5% 12% 2%	0% 10% 1%
Psychiatric Disorders	Affect lability Initial Insomnia Insomnia Irritability Tic	3% 4% 19% 10% 2%	0% 0% 3% 0% 0%
Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Disorders	Rash	3%	0%

DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE

less than that for occaine, but greater than that of placebo. **DVERDIOSAGE**Individual response to amphetamines varies widely. Toxic symptoms may occur idiosyncratically at low doses.

Symptoms: Manifestations of acute overdosage with amphetamines include restlessness, tremor, hyperreflexia, rapid respiration, contission, assaultiveness, haltucinations, panic states, hyperpreva and rhabdomyolysis. Fatigue and depression usually follow the central nervous system stimulation. Cardiovascular effects include arrhythmias, hypertension or hypotension and circulatory collasses. Castrointestinal symptoms include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal orrangs. Tatal polsoning is usually preceded by convulsions and coma.

Treatment: Consult with a Certified Poison Control Center for up to date guidance and advice. Management of acute amphetamine intoxication is largely symptomatic and includes gastric lavage, administration of adviated charcoal, administration of a cathartic advatacion. Experience with hemodalysis or peritoneal idialysis is indequeate to permit recommendation in this regard. Additication of the urine increases amphetamine excretion, but is believed to increase risk of acute renal failure if myoglobinuria is present. If acute severe hypertension complicates amphetamine excretion, but is believed to increase risk of acute renal failure if myoglobinuria is present. If acute severe properties of amphetamine excretion, but when sufficient seadation of intravenous phentolamine has been suggested. However, a gradual drop in blood pressure will usually result when sufficient seadation has been achieved. Chiorpromazine antagonizes the central stimulant effects of amphetamines and can be used to treat amphetamine intoxication. The prolonged release of Vyvanse in the body should be considered when treating patients with overdose.

Manufactured for: New Piwer Parmaceuticals inc., Blacksburg, Va 24060. Made in USA.

For more information call 1-800-802-8088, or visit www. Vyvanse.com

Shire