



**Washington, DC (October 22, 2020)** – The Part B Access for Seniors and Physicians (ASP) Coalition released the following statement regarding the effects of sequestration on health care:

In order to directly address hardships resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress included provisions in the CARES Act to lift sequestration cuts on Medicare Part B payments through the end of 2020. The conditions that necessitated that relief remain in place today and could worsen in the weeks ahead. The volume of elective procedures remains depressed, some physician offices are still closed, and health sector employees continue to be furloughed. The extension of sequestration relief is a critical tool to keep physician offices open to provide needed healthcare for seniors.

The Part B Access for Seniors and Physicians (ASP) Coalition is an alliance of patient and provider groups dedicated to preserving patient access through Medicare Part B. As we continue to address the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, we urge policymakers to extend the relief provided by the temporary Part B sequestration suspension through the end of the declared public health emergency.

[www.partbaccess.org](http://www.partbaccess.org)