

Stop Sequester Cuts to Cancer Care

What is “sequestration?”

- A special committee of Congress tried but failed to reduce government spending by at least \$1.2 trillion. That kicked in automatic spending cuts that will be made to defense, healthcare, education, and other government programs. These automatic spending cuts are referred to as “sequestration.”
- Among the sequester cuts will be an overall 2% cut in Medicare payments that will negatively affect providers of medical care, including community cancer clinics.

How will sequester cuts hurt cancer care?

- The government’s cuts to cancer care have already hurt community cancer care in this country. Over 1,200 cancer clinics have closed, merged into health systems, or are in financial difficulty. This limits access to cancer care and drives up costs to both patients and their insurance, including Medicare. This is not just a problem that affects seniors covered by Medicare — it ultimately impacts all cancer patients.
- A 2% cut may not seem like a lot but it has a huge impact on cancer drugs. The sequester cuts to cancer care will cause many of these drugs to be paid at a price by the government that is less than their cost. It is impossible for a cancer clinic to continue providing treatment when the cost of the drugs they administer is higher than what they are paid.



What can I do?

- You can join us in calling members of Congress to deliver a simple, but powerful message — *Stop Sequester Cuts to Cancer Care*. We want to ask Senators and Representatives to help us by asking the White House and the government agency that runs Medicare (CMS) *to not make sequester cuts to cancer drugs*. If you have questions, or want more detailed information on this, please ask us. We are fighting for you and appreciate your help!
- We have made a list of your two United States Senators and their telephone. In addition, we included the names/numbers of all the House Representatives covered by our clinic, which will include your Congressman or Congresswoman. If you are unsure who that is, you can go to <http://capwiz.com/co/home/> and enter your home zip code for their name. See the following page for the list and simple instructions.
- Please help by calling your two Senators and your one Congressman or Congresswoman to tell them — *Please help stop sequester cuts to cancer care. Please ask the White House and CMS to not make sequester cuts to cancer drugs.*

