



July 8th 2008,

For Immediate Release

Diagnostic Clinic of Houston announces it will continue to accept new Medicare Patients

Dear valued healthcare consumer;

As you may have read or heard recently, there has been renewed turmoil with the Federal Health Insurance program Medicare ([an article from the Houston Chronicle can be found here](#)). This most recent disturbance stems from a planned Medicare payment rate cut for physicians of 10.6% that is to go into effect on July 1st, 2008 unless amended by an act of congress by July 10th 2008. Sadly this is not an isolated incident, but an annual reoccurring event, with the potential to greatly compromise medical care for our seniors.

Why it matters to you.

Regardless of if you are on Medicare now, or will be in the future, the ramifications of our existing Medicare system are profound. As the Chronicle article illustrates, the number of physicians accepting new Medicare patients is at a low, and continues to fall. Some Physicians have been forced into early retirement or to close down. Houston has recently witnessed a large hospital closure. All of which has resulted in some seniors already reporting problems finding physicians who will see them. Those that are seen are often treated to a whirlwind visit in which they spend mere moments with an actual physician, if they see one at all. While no physician wants to turn away patients, the simple economics of the situation are forcing many physicians to do so as the cost to provide care (wages, supplies, fuel and technology) continue to raise, while Medicare payments for services at best hold constant or decline under the Medicare "Sustainable Growth" Formula.

Diagnostic Clinic's Position

We at Diagnostic Clinic take our responsibility to provide quality care seriously, and are deeply troubled and extremely disappointed that our representatives in Washington continue to use Medicare as a bargaining chip in their political games. We will continue to accept new Medicare patients and provide them with the same world class treatment we provide all our patients. It is our strongest hope that our elected officials take action soon to fix Medicare for our valued senior citizens.