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November 19, 2008

Gene Dodaro
Acting Comptroller General
United States Government Accountability Office
441 G. Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

Section 135 of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA), which became law on July 15, 2008 is intended to promote quality and safety of imaging services in the Medicare program by requiring suppliers of imaging services to become accredited by an accreditation organization (AO) in order to receive technical component (TC) reimbursement for advanced diagnostic imaging services (ADIS).

The Secretary of Health and Human Services is required to designate accreditation organizations that are qualified to assess imaging suppliers on each element involved in performing imaging studies no later than January 1, 2010.

We are writing to request that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) monitor the methodology and criteria CMS uses to evaluate and designate imaging accreditation organizations for these purposes, as per the attached letter, and report back to the Finance Committee periodically.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Chris Dawe or Sue Walden of our staffs at (202) 224-4515. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Senator Max Baucus
Chairman



Senator Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member