



## **Homecare Delivers Value for Healthcare in America**

- **Safeguard quality and fair competition under the “competitive acquisition” (restrictive contracting) provisions of the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA).** Before implementation of this program, CMS must accelerate development of quality standards to create a level playing field for providers and ensure that standards for necessary clinical support are in place so beneficiaries receive the quality of care they deserve. CMS should allow any qualified provider to compete. It should not limit the number of homecare providers if they can meet prescribed prices and quality standards.
- **Increase the dispensing fee for inhalation drug therapies** to account for inflation and associated service expenses to ensure that these patients continue to receive quality therapy in their homes, and to prevent hospitalization. Home inhalation drug therapy provides critical care to nearly one million Medicare beneficiaries suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and other respiratory illnesses.
- **Strengthen the home health benefit.** Evidence demonstrates that home healthcare is more cost effective than care in other settings. Through evidence-based best practices, home health agencies are enabling patients to receive clinically effective services in the most appropriate, consumer-preferred healthcare setting. The Medicare home health benefit is clearly defined in law and regulation. The typical home health patient is being treated by a home health agency for acute conditions as well as multiple chronic illnesses. The principle of rebalancing resources between institutional and home and community-based services in Medicaid, which the Administration advocates, is equally applicable and valid for the Medicare program.
- **Ask CMS to clarify the new Medicare coverage policy for mobility assistive equipment.** Documentation guidelines for mobility assistive equipment must be clear, and CMS must work with stakeholders and issue clear guidance and a revised certificate of medical necessity. Also, the “in-the-home” restriction for Medicare coverage of mobility equipment must be eliminated so beneficiaries can access community, work, school, doctors, or places of worship.
- **Remember: Homecare delivers value for Medicare and Medicaid.** A recent survey of medical literature shows the cost-effectiveness of homecare, which HHS Secretary Leavitt recently described as “radically” more efficient than institutional care. Studies published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, the *New England Journal of Medicine*, and other sources support the value of homecare.
- **Strengthen homecare to address America’s healthcare crisis.** Homecare provides patient-preferred, cost-effective care to millions of Americans. It is part of the answer to America’s healthcare crisis. AAHomecare members urge Congress to protect home medical equipment and home health from further cuts. Homecare includes home medical equipment, home respiratory therapy (including oxygen and inhalation drugs), infusion therapy, home health services, mobility and rehab, telehealth, and hospice.

### **American Association for Homecare**

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