



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

May 18, 2016

Please Sign the “Protect Patient Access to Home Health Care” Dear Colleague Letter Co-Sponsored by Congressmen Tom Price and James McGovern

Dear Health Legislative Assistant:

Congressmen Tom Price and James McGovern recently sent a Dear Colleague letter requesting all Members of Congress to co-sign a letter to Secretary Burwell and Acting CMS Administrator Slavitt seeking rescission of a proposed Medicare pilot program that would require *prior authorization of home healthcare services* in five states.

The Coalition to Preserve Rehabilitation opposes this same home health prior authorization proposal and strongly urges your Member to sign the Price/McGovern letter as soon as possible.

On April 5, 2016, the Coalition to Preserve Rehabilitation (CPR) submitted comments to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on a public notice entitled, *Medicare Probable Fraud Measurement Pilot; CMS-10599 Medicare Prior Authorization of Home Health Services Demonstration* (“the Notice”). CPR is a coalition of 47 national consumer, clinician, and membership organizations that advocates for policies to ensure access to rehabilitative care for individuals with injuries, illnesses, disabilities and chronic conditions.

CPR believes in maintaining the integrity of the Medicare home health benefit. But we believe that a prior authorization requirement for home health care would delay beneficiary access to needed services, expose patients to potentially unnecessary post-acute care services, increase costs to the Medicare program and to taxpayers, and miss the mark in terms of curtailing fraud and abuse. Applying prior authorization to home health services creates a dangerous precedent of applying this concept to clinical care. In our comment letter, we urged CMS to rescind this proposal, just as the Price/McGovern letter states.

The CPR Steering Committee urges your Member to co-sign the letter with Congressmen Price and McGovern opposing prior authorization for home health care. Thank you for your consideration.

Signed,

CPR Steering Committee

Judith Stein	Center for Medicare Advocacy
Alexandra Bennewith	United Spinal Association
Kim Calder	National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Amy Colberg	Brain Injury Association of America
Rachel Patterson	Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation
Sam Porritt	Falling Forward Foundation

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