



National Home Infusion Association

Providing solutions for the infusion therapy community

November 14, 2017

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
U.S. House of Representatives
1314 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. McMorris Rodgers:

The National Home Infusion Association (NHIA), based in Alexandria, Virginia, represents and advances the interests of providers and suppliers of infusion and specialized pharmacy products and services to home-based patients. We are writing you to thank you for introducing H.R. 4229, the *Protecting HOME Access Act*. This legislation will ensure individuals that are dependent on life saving home infusion therapy have access to home infusion pumps and the associated supplies that are vital to delivering IV drugs and enteral therapies covered under the Medicare Part B Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies (DMEPOS) program.

On October 31, 2014, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the final rule on "Medicare Program: End-Stage Renal Disease Prospective Payment System, Quality Incentive Program, and Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies", which established the methodology for making national price adjustments to the fee-for-service payments for the external infusion pump and enteral nutrition product categories

On January 1, 2016, CMS began the first phase of a two-part reimbursement adjustment that applies pricing derived from highly populated competitive bidding areas to all areas of the country. The phased in approach created a new reimbursement for non-competitive bidding areas over six months that began January 1, 2016. Claims with dates of service from January 1, 2016 through June 30, 2016 were based on 50 percent of the un-adjusted fee schedule amount and 50 percent of the regional single price amount (RSPA) adjusted fee schedule from Round Two bid area prices. This is often referred to as the blended rate.

On July 1, 2016, reimbursement rates became 100% of the RSPA adjusted fee schedule amount based on pricing from new Round Two Recompete bid area prices effective July 1. Congress intervened last December by statutorily extending the reimbursement rates in effect on January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 via the 21st Century CURES legislation. However, on January 1, 2017, the full cut took effect once more.

The Protecting HOME Access Act (H.R. 4229) will extend the blended rate to claims with a date of service January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018 to ensure patient access to home infusion. **NHIA supports H.R. 4229 and urges the bill's passage.**

NHIA thanks you and your staff for your efforts to introduce this legislation. Please feel free to contact NHIA's Vice President of Government Affairs Kendall Van Pool, at Kendall.vanpool@nhia.org or (703) 838-2664, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Tyler J. Wilson
President and CEO
The National Home Infusion Association