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**NHIA Applauds Introduction of Medicare Part B Home Infusion Services Payment Legislation
That Would Provide Vulnerable Patients with Access to Life-Saving Infusion Therapy**

Alexandria, VA, July 11, 2017 — The National Home Infusion Association (NHIA) applauds Congressmen Pat Tiberi (R-OH) and Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) for their leadership in introducing [*The Medicare Part B Home Infusion Services Temporary Transitional Payment Act \(HR 3163\)*](#). The proposed legislation would create a temporary transitional payment beginning January 1, 2019, for services related to Medicare Part B Durable Medical Equipment (DME) infusion drugs until a permanent services payment comes online in 2021. NHIA is urging home infusion providers and partners; patients and caregivers; and other members of the health care community to ask members of congress to cosponsor the bill.

The *21st Century Cures Act* enacted last year contained two provisions that significantly affect the home infusion community. First, a provision contained in Section 5012 and scheduled to take effect in 2021, established a reimbursement structure based largely on provisions contained in the *Medicare Home Infusion Site of Care Act of 2015* for the professional services associated with

Part B DME infusion drugs. NHIA supported Section 5012 of the legislation and is thankful for congressional action on this vital reimbursement issue. A second provision contained in Section 5004(a) changed the payment structure for infusion drugs under the Medicare Part B DME benefit from an Average Wholesale Price (AWP) metric to an Average Sales Price (ASP) payment methodology. The gap between the two implementation dates needed to be addressed.

If passed, HR 3163 will ensure home infusion providers are reimbursed for their services, starting in January 2019, by creating a temporary payment for all home infusion services associated with Medicare Part B infusion drugs including nursing. This fix will allow Medicare beneficiaries to continue to access therapy in the home until the services payment in Section 5012 is implemented in 2021.

"The introduction of HR 3163 is an important step in ensuring Medicare beneficiaries have access to home infusion therapy," said NHIA President Tyler Wilson. "Providing this temporary and transitional payment will allow the home infusion community to continue to service the most fragile patients until the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) finalizes the services payment included in the *21st Century Cures Act*," he added. Supporters of the legislation can write to their members of Congress using NHIA's ["Write your members of Congress"](#) webpage to voice their support.

NHIA is also conducting a [survey](#) of physicians, discharge planners, and other providers who coordinate or refer Medicare patients for home infusion services to assess the impact of the coverage gap for both Medicare Part B and Part D on patient access to home infusion services. Obtaining data from referral sources will help support efforts to ensure patients have access to the infusion care they need and deserve.

The National Home Infusion Association, based in Alexandria, Virginia, represents organizations that provide infusion and specialized pharmacy products as well as the interests of Medicare patients unable to get home infusion therapy. For more information, visit the Association at www.nhia.org.