



DAILY NEWS

Tiberi, Pascrell Introduce Transition Pay For Home Infusion

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House Ways & Means health subcommittee Chair Pat Tiberi (R-OH) and Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) introduced legislation to create a transitional pay structure for home infusion services that would bridge a gap in reimbursement created by policies in the 21st Century Cures Act. The National Home Infusion Association says the bill's introduction is an important step in getting the gap resolved.

“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 Cures Act,” NHIA says in a news alert on the bill.

The 21st Century Cures Act includes provisions meant to fix what the HHS Office of Inspector General said was a flawed benchmark for determining payment for those drugs. The Cures Act moved reimbursement from an average wholesale prices-based formula to the average sales price-based formula used for most other Part B drugs -- ASP + 6 percent. That shift went into effect at the beginning of the year. However, a second provision in the bill which provides reimbursement for the professional services associated with infusing the drugs doesn't go into effect until 2021. NHIA in January urged lawmakers to quickly deal with that reimbursement gap by making changes so that the pay occurs simultaneously.

Tiberi and Pascrell's bill would create a temporary payment system starting in January 2019. HHS would create three payment categories for home-infused drugs. If more than one drug is infused on the same day, the provider will be paid once at the highest rate. There will be no pay for self-administered drugs.

“NHIA will continue to work with Capitol Hill on technical adjustments to the legislation; nonetheless, the fact that Congress introduced HR 3163 is an important step in getting the reimbursement gap resolved,” the group says.

NHIA says it is working to make sure the bill moves quickly as a standalone or alongside another Medicare vehicle. --
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