

October 13, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi:

The undersigned organizations write to urge enactment of the *Medicare Home Infusion Therapy Access Act of 2017* (S. 1738) or Section 101 of *Medicare Part B Improvement Act of 2017* (H.R. 3178) either as standalone legislation or as part of any end-of-the-year Medicare package. These companion bills are of vital importance to ensuring Medicare beneficiaries have access to Part B Durable Medical Equipment (DME) home infusion drugs; and they must be enacted before the end of the year in order to ensure the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has adequate time to implement the new system.

S. 1738 and Section 101 of H.R. 3178 would create a temporary transitional reimbursement beginning January 1, 2019, for the unique clinical service requirements related to Medicare Part B DME home infusion drugs. The legislation would allow Medicare beneficiaries to continue to access infusion therapy in the home until a permanent services reimbursement, contained in the *21st Century Cures Act*, is implemented in 2021. Providing this transitional clinical services reimbursement would enable the home infusion community to continue to service some of Medicare's most fragile patients.

Under the *21st Century Cures Act*, Congress changed the Medicare program reimbursement for home infusion medications to average sales price (ASP) +6 percent. This was intended to more accurately reflect the true costs of these medications starting in 2017. In addition, recognizing that there are unique clinical service requirements necessary to deliver infusion drugs in the home, Congress also created a new Medicare reimbursement for home infusion clinical services. However, the services reimbursement provision does not take effect until 2021, thus creating a four-year reimbursement gap. The lapse between the two provisions in the *21st Century Cures Act* needs to be addressed.

While several therapies are impacted by this change, two are dramatically affected: inotropic therapy for heart failure and subcutaneous immunoglobulin therapy for primary immunodeficiency diseases. Due to the required shift in drug reimbursement without an infusion services payment from 2017 to 2021, Medicare costs will increase as beneficiaries access their care in more expensive sites of care (emergency departments, hospitals, and skilled nursing facilities). In cases where beneficiaries are forced to receive treatment in other sites of care, they are put at risk for even more complicated and costly health problems.

The House has already passed H.R. 3178 by voice vote, and both the House and Senate bills have bipartisan support. Congress has a myriad of priorities for the balance of 2017, including a growing list

of bipartisan Medicare bills. As you navigate the legislative calendar for 2017 and consider passing Medicare policy provisions, we ask that you include S. 1738 or Section 101 of H.R. 3178 in the next bill that is germane to the Medicare program.

By passing S. 1738 or Section 101 of H.R. 3178, Congress can ensure that the vulnerable patients that need home infusion have access to their lifesaving therapies. Thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to working with you to get this vital legislation over the finish line.

Sincerely,

1st America Home Medical Equipment, LP
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI)
American Association of Heart Failure Nurses
American Outcomes Management
American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ASPEN)
Amerita, Inc.
ARJ Infusion Services
Big Sky IV Care
BioScrip
BriovaRx Infusion Services
CarePro Health Services
Chartwell Midwest Wisconsin, LLC
Chartwell Pennsylvania LP
Clinical Resources, Inc.
Compounding Pharmacy Solutions
Coram, CVS Specialty Infusion Services
CSL Behring
Diplomat Specialty Infusion Group
EMED Technologies
Fairview Health System
Grifols
Holly Hill Pharmacy
Horizon Healthcare Services
ICU Medical Inc.
Immune Deficiency Foundation
InfuCare, Ltd
Infusion Solutions Inc.
Innovatix
Integrated Medical Systems, Inc.
Intramed Plus
Johns Hopkins Medicine
Kaup Pharmacy, Inc.
Managed Health Care Associates
Munson Home Infusion Pharmacy
National Association of Specialty Pharmacy
National Home Infusion Association

Nation's Home Infusion
NuCara Iv Services
One Source Homecare Pharmacy
Option Care Infusion Services, Inc.
OptionOne, LLC.
P & R Home IV Service, Inc.
Paragon Healthcare Inc.
Partners in Home Care, Inc.
Pediatric Home Service
Pharmacare Hawaii
Pharmacare Health Specialists
Pharmacy Specialists
Profusion Specialty Pharmacy
PromptCare Companies, Inc.
Provista
Redline Specialty Pharmacy
Sartin's Vital Care
SBH Medical, Ltd.
Sentara Health Care
Smiths Medical
Soleo Health
Spectrum Infusion, Inc.
TANYR Healthcare
University of California, San Diego Home Infusion Pharmacy
University of Iowa Community HomeCare
VGM Pharmacy Solutions
Via Christi Home Medical Wichita LLC
Vital Care, Inc.
Vizient

CC: Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orin Hatch
Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden
House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden
House Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Frank Pallone
House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady
House Ways and Means Committee Ranking Member Richard Neal
Senate Finance Committee Subcommittee on Health Care Chairman Patrick Toomey
Senate Finance Committee Subcommittee on Health Care Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow
House Energy and Commerce Committee Health Subcommittee Chairman Michael Burgess
House Energy and Commerce Committee Health Subcommittee Ranking Member Gene Green
House Ways and Means Committee Subcommittee on Health Chairman Patrick Tiberi
House Ways and Means Committee Subcommittee on Health Ranking Member Sander Levin
Senator Mark Warner
Senator Johnny Isakson
Representative Bill Pascrell

Home Infusion Transitional Reimbursement

Coalition Letter

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