



National Home Infusion Association
Providing solutions for the infusion therapy community

TALKING POINTS FOR CONGRESSIONAL MEETINGS

I. **Introductions**

- *[Establish constituent connection: describe your facility, service area, number of employees, etc. Remember the patient always – speak as their advocate.]*

II. **State purpose of meeting**

- To alert the Congressman/Senator to a serious, unintended gap in Medicare drug coverage that affects the sickest patients
- To propose a common-sense solution that will improve the quality of care for Medicare beneficiaries while lowering treatment costs

III. **Briefly describe home infusion**

- *[Describe the types of conditions that often require infusion]*
- *[Describe the elements – sterile mixing, delivery of drugs, patient/caregiver education, supplies, equipment, monitoring, etc.]*
- *[Emphasize that private health plans have been using home infusion for decades to keep people out of hospitals and nursing homes.]*
- *[Highlight patient satisfaction rates and avoidance of hospital-acquired infections]*
- *[Provide some examples comparing the cost of infusion therapy in the home vs. the hospital or nursing home setting]*

IV. **Describe the problem**

- The Medicare drug benefit (Part D) covers infusion drugs, but CMS claims it does not have the authority to cover the services, equipment, and supplies that are necessary to safely provide home infusion. These elements often amount to well over half the cost of home infusion therapy. Patients can't afford to pay these costs out of pocket.
- As a result, patients are forced into hospitals and nursing homes for treatment, at greater cost to the program and significant inconvenience to the patient. Patients in rural areas face added hardships in trying to access hospital-based care.
- So, while the drugs are covered, the lack of coverage for the services, supplies and equipment make the drug coverage virtually meaningless for most beneficiaries.
- *[If possible, use a personal anecdote to illustrate the problem]*

V. **Propose the solution**

- S. 1203 and H.R. 2195 have been introduced this session with bipartisan support. These bills would cover the infusion-related professional services, supplies and equipment under Medicare Part B. Infusion drugs would remain covered in Part D. The bill also would authorize the Secretary of HHS to establish national quality standards to ensure that the high level of quality required by private health plans is incorporated into Medicare's coverage. This legislation would provide Medicare beneficiaries with access to the treatment they need, where they need and prefer to receive it – in the home.

VI. **Make the request**

- Please cosponsor this legislation and help us get it included in any broader Medicare bill that will be considered this year.