

MARKETS

GENERAL NEWS

BLOGS

EDITORIAL

SMART TALK

CATEGORY DEVELOPMENT

VIDEO

RESOURCES

## Blogs

### ON THE EDITOR'S DESK



Riddle me this HME provider whose name has been redacted

### E-SP




Nominate your celebrity spokesperson here

Advertisement

### General news

## In brief: Bidding battle continues, bill seeks payment for home infusion therapy

06.24.2011  email

WASHINGTON - The HME industry last week brought its message that Medicare's competitive bidding program needs to be repealed to the president and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. AAHomecare on June 20 sent a letter to President Obama, restating the association's concerns that the program is having a negative affect on beneficiaries. The VGM Group, meanwhile, continued to "rattle cages," with John Gallagher, vice president of government relations, meeting Reid last week in Washington, D.C. "The senator is concerned about access to healthcare in rural areas," said Gallagher. "The thing that hurt this week was that (lawmakers) are not hearing from beneficiaries about problems (with the bidding program)." On bright spot: Senators are finally realizing that the program is flawed, Gallagher said. "Nobody is saying, 'Let's see what happens with Round 1,'" he said. "Nobody is seeing it as fraud (prevention). They are all saying it's a train wreck." H.R. 1041 picked up seven co-sponsors last week, bringing the total to 132.

### Bill seeks payment for home infusion therapy

WASHINGTON - A bill that would close a payment gap for home infusion therapy was introduced June 15 in both the House and Senate. Sponsored by Sens. Olympia Snow, R-Maine, and John Kerry, D-Mass., and Reps. Eliot Engel, D-N.Y. and Tim Murphy, R-Pa., the Medicare Home Infusion Therapy Coverage Act of 2011, would require Medicare to pay for infusion-related services, supplies and equipment under Part B. Payment for the drugs—which Medicare already pays for—would remain under Part D. Similar bills were introduced in 2007 and 2008.

The event for  
HME leaders!

SEPTEMBER 11 2011  
SEPTEMBER 12 2011  
SEPTEMBER 13 2011