



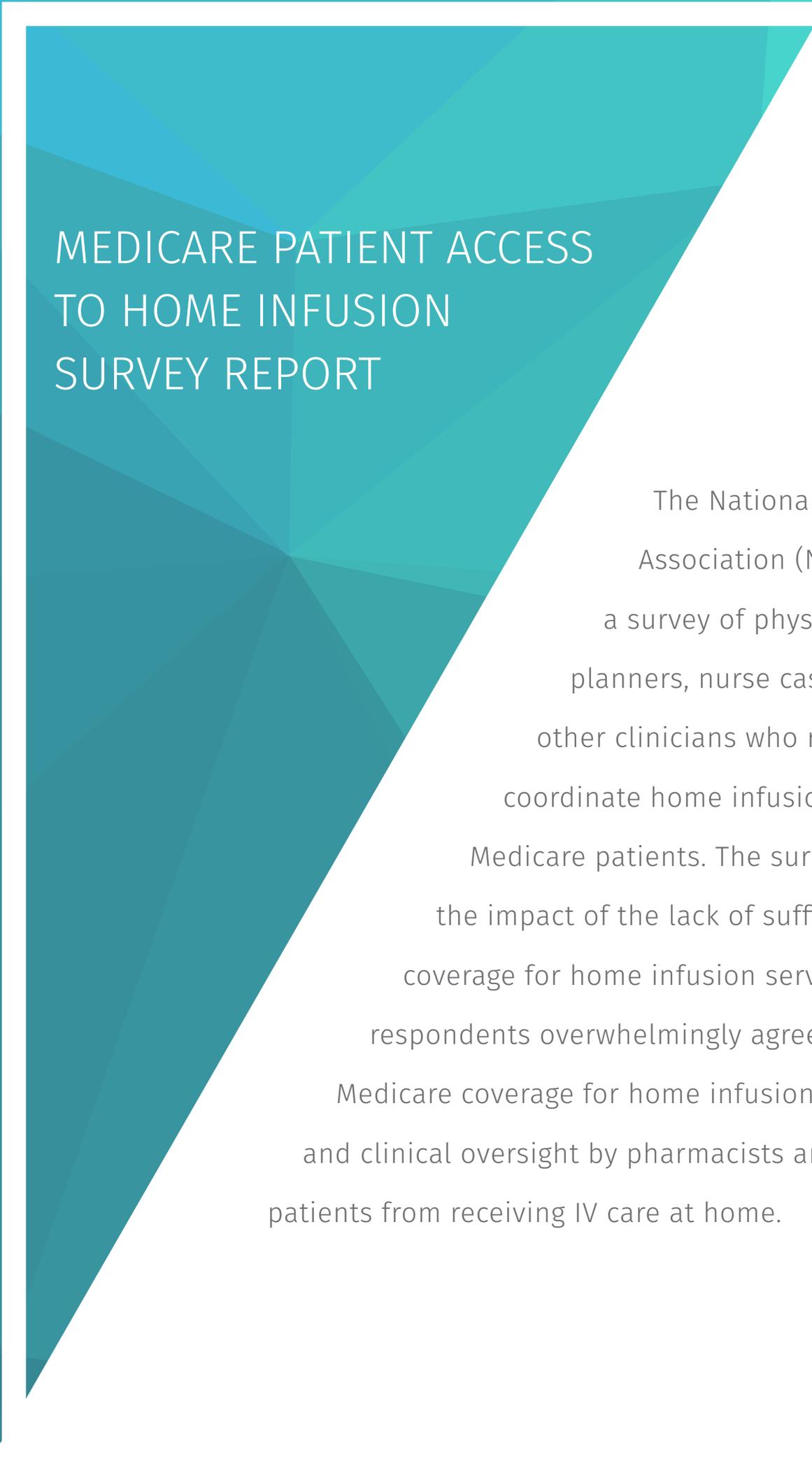
2017



MEDICARE PATIENT ACCESS TO HOME  
INFUSION SURVEY REPORT



National Home Infusion Association

A large teal graphic on the left side of the page, composed of several overlapping, semi-transparent triangles of varying shades of teal and blue, creating a dynamic, abstract shape that tapers to a point at the bottom left.

# MEDICARE PATIENT ACCESS TO HOME INFUSION SURVEY REPORT

The National Home Infusion Association (NHIA) conducted a survey of physicians, discharge planners, nurse case managers, and other clinicians who refer, arrange, or coordinate home infusion services for Medicare patients. The survey assessed the impact of the lack of sufficient Medicare coverage for home infusion services. Survey respondents overwhelmingly agree that the lack of Medicare coverage for home infusion services (supplies and clinical oversight by pharmacists and nurses) prevents patients from receiving IV care at home.

## SURVEY PARTICIPANTS BY OCCUPATION

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Of the health care professionals who responded to the NHIA survey, 89% work in acute-care hospitals. A total of 11% are employed in physician or hospital outpatient clinics.



44%

NURSE CASE MANAGER



25%

SOCIAL WORKER



8%

DISCHARGE  
COORDINATOR



7%

PHYSICIAN



5%

HOSPITAL CLINIC STAFF



11%

OTHER

# 97%

of respondents either strongly agreed (77%) or agreed (20%) with the following statement:

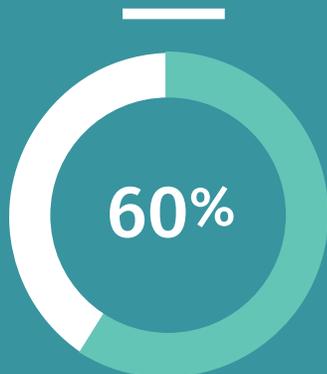
*The lack of sufficient Medicare coverage for home infusion services makes it difficult for patients to access care at home, even though it is more convenient and less costly than other sites of care.*

**Survey Responses:** A total of 330 individuals participated in the NHIA survey. This report reflects the responses of 177 survey participants that met the inclusion criteria in that they arrange home infusion services for Medicare patients but do not work for a home infusion company.

## DIFFICULTY OF ARRANGING HOME INFUSION CARE

Respondents were asked to describe how difficult or easy it is to arrange home IV services for patients who have Medicare.

EXTREMELY OR VERY DIFFICULT



SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT



EASY



## WHEN HOME INFUSION IS NOT ACCESSIBLE

Respondents were asked about how often they make alternate arrangements for patients, and where they go when home infusion is not accessible.



**76%**

of respondents indicated alternate arrangements are made very often or often

**24%**

of respondents indicated alternate arrangements are made sometimes

### MOST COMMON ALTERNATE ARRANGEMENTS

**75%**

of respondents have referred patients to a skilled nursing facility\*

**58%**

of respondents have referred patients to a hospital outpatient clinic or physician office for infusions\*

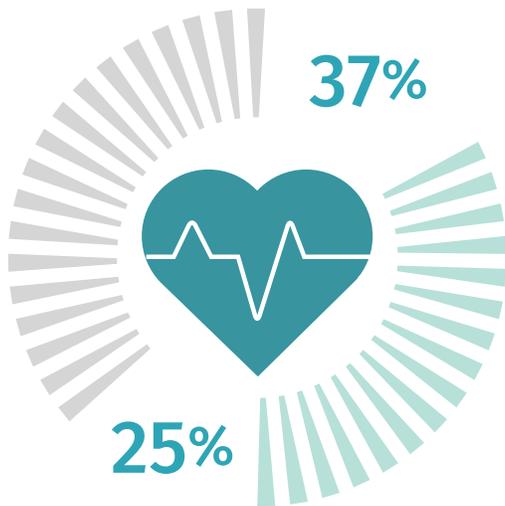
\*Respondents could select more than one answer.

The diagrams below reflect how the passage of the Cure's Act has impacted patient access to home infusion.

## PATIENTS WITH HEART FAILURE

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Where heart failure patients go to receive post-acute IV care when home infusion is not accessible because of insufficient coverage for services.



**37%** of respondents have referred patients to a skilled nursing facility for treatment.



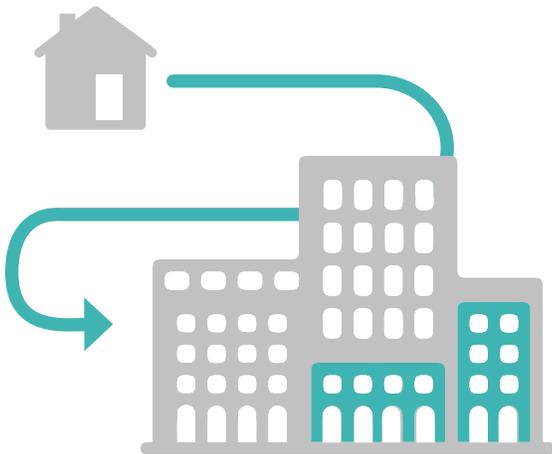
**25%** of respondents have admitted patients to the hospital due to insufficient reimbursement for home infusion services.

**23%**

Respondents said they have arranged home infusion services for heart failure patients.

## SHIFTING OF IMMUNOCOMPROMISED PATIENTS TO OFFICE SETTINGS

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**74%**

of respondents have referred patients needing subcutaneous (SC) immune globulin therapy to a hospital or physician clinic for treatment.

**34%**

of respondents stated that SC therapy was converted to IV due to the reduction in Part B drug reimbursement.\*

**11%**

Respondents said they have arranged home infusion services for patients needing subcutaneous immune globulin at home.

**\*Respondents could select more than one answer.**

## **About NHIA**

The National Home Infusion Association (NHIA) represents organizations that provide infusion and specialized pharmacy products and services, as well as the interests of Medicare patients unable to get home infusion therapy. Infusion in the home is a clinically effective, cost-efficient, site of care that reduces health care costs while allowing patients to receive therapy in the comfort and safety of their home.

For additional information about the survey contact: [Connie.Sullivan@nhia.org](mailto:Connie.Sullivan@nhia.org).

For additional information on health policy related to home infusion therapy, contact: [Kendall.VanPool@nhia.org](mailto:Kendall.VanPool@nhia.org).



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