



National Home Infusion Association

Providing solutions for the infusion therapy community

February 6, 2018

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 Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi:

The National Home Infusion Association (NHIA), representing the nation's providers of infusion therapy in home and alternate-site settings urges passage of the *"Further Extension of Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018"*. Section 2401 of this bill is of vital importance to ensuring Medicare beneficiaries have access to Part B Durable Medical Equipment (DME) home infusion drugs.

Section 2401 will 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 will 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 reimbursement for clinical services will 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 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 that started last year. 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 last year 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.

By passing the *"Further Extension of Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018"* 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 passed.

Sincerely,



Tyler J. Wilson
President and CEO
National Home Infusion Association

CC: 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