

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Help Seniors Receive Care At Home
Cosponsor the Medicare Home Infusion Site of Care Act

Dear Colleague:

We invite you to join us in supporting legislation to improve the quality of Medicare coverage and reduce costs for beneficiaries and taxpayers by allowing Medicare beneficiaries to receive infusion therapy in their homes.

People suffering from cancer, serious infections, pain and many other conditions may often require infusion therapy. Infusion therapy involves the administration of medication directly into the bloodstream via a needle or catheter. Specialized equipment, supplies, and professional services (such as sterile drug compounding, care coordination, and patient education and monitoring) are required. The course of treatment often lasts for several hours per day over a six-to-eight week period.

Although Medicare covers infusion therapy when provided in a hospital or nursing home, the program currently does not fully cover infusion therapy in the most cost-effective and convenient setting – the patient's home. Requiring beneficiaries to go into the more costly institutional settings to receive infusion treatments also subjects them to considerable risk of secondary health care-acquired infections.

For decades, the private sector has recognized that home infusion therapy is a cost-effective, clinically appropriate treatment option. We believe Medicare beneficiaries should also have access to this option. For this reason, we are introducing the Medicare Home Infusion Site of Care Act, which would expressly provide coverage under Medicare Part B of the infusion-related services, equipment and supplies. Coverage of infusion drugs would remain unchanged in Part D.

The policy included in this legislation was recently studied by the health care policy firm Avalere, which analyzed the impact on Medicare program expenditures from a portion of patients shifting their infusion treatment setting from hospitals, nursing homes, or physician offices to the home. Avalere found that there would be an estimated savings to the Medicare program for the 10-year period from 2015 to 2024 of 12.6 percent, or \$80 million. These savings figures are very conservative. For example, Avalere did not calculate the additional savings that could result from the avoidance of hospital stays, and hospital-acquired infections.

We hope you will consider cosponsoring the Medicare Home Infusion Site of Care Act. Please contact Jay Sulzmann with Senator Johnny Isakson at Jay_Sulzmann@Isakson.Senate.gov or 8-3895 or Elizabeth Falcone with Senator Mark Warner at Elizabeth_Falcone@Warner.Senate.gov or 4-2023 to cosponsor or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Johnny Isakson
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator