Protect Access to Medicare Home Health Care

National Alliance for Care at Home

A stable home health infrastructure is essential to delivering high-quality care at lower cost across Medicare.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has proposed an overall increase of 2.4% in the Calendar Year 2027 Home Health Prospective Payment System Proposed rule, an important step toward supporting Medicare beneficiaries' access to care at home. We appreciate CMS's recognition of the critical role home health providers play in delivering high-quality, cost-effective care and the progress reflected in this proposal. But with a negative 3.0% temporary adjustment still applied on top of years of permanent cuts, insufficient payment updates continue to erode the benefit that millions of Americans rely on.

Home Health Improves Outcomes and Reduces Costs

When patients do **not** receive home health care ordered after hospital discharge, the results are worse outcomes and higher costs:

▲ **35% higher** hospital readmission rates	▲ **43% higher** mortality rates
▲ **16% higher** emergency department use	▲ **5.4% higher** total Medicare spending

Across the U.S., home health services provide essential care for millions of Medicare beneficiaries each year, helping patients recover safely at home, maintain their independence, and avoid unnecessary hospitalizations and institutional care.

While CMS's proposal represents meaningful progress, more work remains to ensure the long-term stability of the Medicare home health payment system. Nationally, excluding outlier states with CMS-identified growth of bad actors, access to home health care is in decline:

- **60% of U.S. counties** had a decline in use rate between 2020-2024
- **More than one-third of patients** referred to home health care never receive services due to workforce shortages and provider capacity.
- **10% of referrals** wait at least five days to receive a visit, with longer delays in rural areas.

VALUE OF HOME HEALTH

Over **$1.7 Billion in Post-Acute Care Savings** Annually when patients access home health care

HOME HEALTH STRENGTHENS OUR WORK-FORCE

9,931 Home Health Agencies Nationally

HOME HEALTH IMPROVES CARE FOR PATIENTS NATIONALLY

Serves **2.8 Million Patients** Annually through Medicare FFS

11% of Rural Individuals Served by Home Health

HOME HEALTH CONTINUES TO BE UNDER THREAT

416 HHA Closures Since 2019 Excluding Outlier Data in CA

81,430 Patients Have Lost Access to Home Health Since 2019

Protect the Long-Term Sustainability of Medicare's Home Health Benefit

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