



National Home Infusion Association

Providing solutions for the infusion therapy community

May 7, 2013

Congressman Tom Price
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Mr. Price:

On behalf of thousands of dedicated home infusion therapy pharmacists and nurses, as well as over a million patients that they serve each year, the National Home Infusion Association (NHIA) appreciates your recognition of the unsustainability of the current Medicare Competitive Bidding Program for certain Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS). NHIA also appreciates your efforts in presenting an alternative to the Medicare DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program by introducing H.R. 1717, the Medicare DMEPOS Market Pricing Program Act of 2013.

While NHIA believes that the Market Pricing Program is a much more transparent, sustainable model than the current Medicare DMEPOS Competitive Bidding program, and it can reflect the true market far better than the current program. We continue to have concerns, however, regarding the inclusion of External Infusion Pumps and Supplies in any competitive bidding process due to the integrated nature of the clinical services required to safely administer drugs infused in the home setting. We remain concerned that there could be a split in care between an infusion pharmacy that provides the prescribed infusion drugs, and the DME supplier that provides the pump and supplies needed to administer the drugs. NHIA members have grave concerns regarding the possible safety issues that can arise from such a split in care, such as discrepancies between the drug prescription label and the actual drug administration program entered into the infusion pump.

NHIA has long sought a meaningful, comprehensive Medicare benefit for home infusion therapy, and plans to continue this legislative effort in the 113th Congress. We believe a comprehensive benefit for home infusion therapy offers the best solution for ensuring Medicare-eligible patients can safely receive infusion treatments in the most cost-effective site of care—their home. NHIA is currently rewriting our coverage legislation with the goal of proving the savings available to Medicare when patients receive their infusion therapy in the comfort of their own homes as opposed to institutional settings.

Once again, NHIA appreciates your offering an alternative solution to the extremely flawed, current Competitive Bidding program. As H.R. 1717 moves forward, we urge that external infusion pumps and supplies be removed from the product categories that are subject to competitive bidding. We look forward to working with you on this bill as well as on comprehensive and cost-effective home infusion therapy coverage legislation. Please feel free to have your staff contact Kendall Van Pool, NHIA Vice President of Legislative Affairs, at (703) 838-2664 or kendallvanpool@nhia.org should you any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Russell Bodoff
President and CEO

NHIA, based in Alexandria, VA, represents and advances the interests of organizations that provide infusion and specialty pharmacy products and services to the entire spectrum of home-based patients. It is the leading voice in representing the interests of older and disabled Medicare patients denied home infusion coverage. For more information, visit: www.nhia.org.