



National Home Infusion Association

Providing solutions for the infusion therapy community

January 4, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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 Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, 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 enactment of the *Medicare Home Infusion Therapy Access Act of 2017* (S. 1738) or Section 101 of the *Medicare Part B Improvement Act of 2017* (H.R. 3178). These companion bills are of vital importance to ensuring Medicare beneficiaries have access to Part B Durable Medical Equipment (DME) home infusion drugs. The legislation must be enacted early in 2018 in order to ensure the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has adequate time to implement the policy by January 1, 2019.

S. 1738 and Section 101 of H.R. 3178 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.

The House has already passed H.R. 3178 by voice vote, and both the House and Senate bills have substantial bipartisan support. This legislation is part of a growing list of bipartisan Medicare bills that need to be addressed in early 2018 as part of the January 19th continuing resolution.

By passing S. 1738 or Section 101 of H.R. 3178, by the 19th 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 enacted this month.

Sincerely,



Tyler J. Wilson
President and CEO
National Home Infusion Association

CC: Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orin Hatch
Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden
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
Senate Finance Committee Subcommittee on Health Care Chairman Patrick Toomey
Senate Finance Committee Subcommittee on Health Care Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow
House Energy and Commerce Committee Health Subcommittee Chairman Michael Burgess
House Energy and Commerce Committee Health Subcommittee Ranking Member Gene Green
House Ways and Means Committee Subcommittee on Health Chairman Patrick Tiberi
House Ways and Means Committee Subcommittee on Health Ranking Member Sander Levin
Senator Mark Warner
Senator Johnny Isakson
Representative Bill Pascrell