



February 5, 2010

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McGovern Sends Delegation Letter Requesting Meeting with CMS on TPL

Congressman Jim McGovern has contacted CMS Acting Director Cyndy Mann with a request that Mann with him and the Home Care Alliance on continuing the Third Party Liability (dual eligible) demonstration project. The demonstration allows decisions about the appropriate payer for home health services to Medicare/Medicaid dual eligible elders to be handled by a 200 case sampling rather than a case by case review. “Annual review of two hundred cases per state has been a better systemic solution than previous practices in which thousands of cases, with immense red tape, make their way through multiple levels of review and appeal,” said the McGovern letter. Joining Congressman McGovern is signing on from the Massachusetts delegation were Representatives Capuano, Delahunt, Frank, Lynch, Markey, Olver and Tsongas.

MassHealth administrators have also written to CMS this week, urging that the demonstration project be extended.

Delegation Bill Advances

The Massachusetts legislature’s Joint Committee on Public Health has favorably reported out [Senate Bill 860](#), An Act Relative to Home Health Aides, which means that it will advance in the legislative process.

The proposal, submitted by the Home Care Alliance and sponsored by State Senator Richard T. Moore, would refine the Commonwealth's Nurse Practice Act (NPA) to allow appropriate nurse delegation practices to include delegation of medication administered by home health aides in the home setting.

The legislation is supported by several groups including Mass Home Care, The Mass Council for Home Care Aide Services, and the Massachusetts Association of Registered Nurses (MARN). Be sure to check in soon on the [HCA website](#) for more information and details on advocacy action.

Alliance Provides Input on Long Term Care

The Alliance attended and offered comments at a public input session of the Long-Term Care Financing Advisory Committee. A group of advocates, caregivers, and long-term care consumers broke into small groups, each led by a member of the Committee or a staff member from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs.

The Alliance offered views from the industry on long-term care and long term care insurance. Possible improvements offered in the discussion included the Alliance's legislative proposal on establishing [telehealth](#) as a reimbursable service under Medicaid, the Alliance's nurse delegation of medication administration bill and funding for improved care transitions that include home health care.

More updates on the committee's activity will be provided on [their website](#) and a second public input session will be held on February 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Northampton Council on Aging. Please contact the Alliance if you are interested in attending.

Budget Update Given at ACT Meeting

The ACT Coalition (Affordable Care Today) meeting this month brought special guest Glen Shor, Assistant Secretary of Health for the Executive Office of Administration and Finance. Shor provided budget news for the group, which advocates to both continue and maintain the advances of Massachusetts health reform and for many other health care-related matters.

Shor reported that it is one of the Governor's priorities to extend the federal share of Medicaid funding, and his office is "vigorously" lobbying Congress towards that end. Shor said the Governor's budget indicates his commitment to health reform and health services, but reiterated that advocates will have their work cut out for them to sustain proposed new revenues and the budget numbers laid out with

the legislature.

Be sure to check in regularly for budget updates and advocacy messages related to the budget on our website.

MassHealth Establishes Home Care Waiver for Persons with Traumatic Brain Injury; Amends Hospice Regulations

MassHealth today issued an emergency regulation establishing a Home- and Community-Based Waiver Program for persons with Traumatic Brain Injury. The [amendments to 130 CMR 519](#) are effective February 1, 2010. Comments will be accepted through February 26, 2010.

MassHealth has also issued proposed changes to [130 CMR 437.000, the hospice licensure regulations](#). Many of the proposed changes mirror recent changes to the Medicare Hospice Conditions of Participation. In addition, the new rules change the way hospice providers coordinate their services with the Medicaid personal care benefit. MassHealth members would no longer have to waive their PCA services if they elect the hospice benefit. Members would be able to use PCA services to the extent that the hospice would use the services of a family member in implementing the hospice plan of care.

In addition, the proposed regulations would require the physician signing the certification statement to personally compose a narrative explaining the clinical findings that support a life expectancy of six months or less as part of the certification process.

It is anticipated that these amendments will not go into effect before April 1, 2010. Comments will be accepted through February 26, 2010.

Calendar of Events

For a full listing of upcoming Alliance events, visit our [online Calendar](#).

Thursday, February 11

Clinical Directors meeting

10:00 a.m., VNA & Hospice of Greater Milford

Tuesday, February 16

HHQI Campaign Kickoff

2:00 conference call

Tuesday, March 2

OASIS-C Best Practice Forum / The Complete OASIS Training

Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlborough.

Thursday, March 18 or Wednesday, March 24

Home Health 101

Brockton VNA on 3/18; VNA & Hospice of Cooley Dickinson on 3/24

Save The Date Wednesday, March 31

Wound Assessment & OASIS-C

Holiday Inn Taunton Details will be posted on our website soon.

June 9-10, 2010

2010 Spring conference & Trade Show

Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center in Sturbridge, MA. Exhibitor and sponsor registrations are now being accepted. Please download the [Call for Exhibitors and Sponsors](#). Register early – exhibit space given priority in order of registration.

Contact Royce Tyree at the Alliance office for further details about the educational programs, click on the event title, or log on to our website www.thinkhomecare.org.

Jobs In Home Care

There Are Currently 47 jobs listed on the Alliance's [online job bank](#). This week's featured jobs:

[Vice President of Sales](#)

Waltham

[Hospice Clinical Manager](#)

Lynn

[Clinical Team Assistant](#)

Braintree

Alliance members may post an unlimited number of ads at no charge, so long as they are logged-in to the website. Non-members may post jobs for \$100 a piece. All jobs are subject to editing by Alliance staff.