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January 18, 2009

Home Care Association of Colorado Management Report

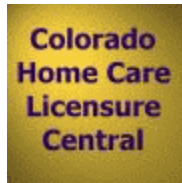
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New updates added weekly to www.hcaonline.org! Check it out!

Your Dues Working For You: Medicaid Reimbursement Rate Alert

HCAC "Home Care Licensure Central" Website



Read the latest news on home care licensure rule making including the latest draft (#8) PLUS the Department of Health's proposed licensure fee structure and HCAC's position on the fees. Get instructions on how to submit your important comments at HCAC's "Home Care Licensure Central." This new web page is designed to allow member access to as much information and activity as possible related to the developing home care agency licensing program. Save in your favorites!

[Click here](#) for the Member Only "Home Care Licensure Central"

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This edition of the *HCAC Management Report* features late-breaking news about Medicaid reimbursement rate reductions.

Governor Ritter Announces \$632 Million Cut in State Spending

In response to the deepening economic downslide, Gov. Bill Ritter announced on Friday a cut of some \$632 Million in state spending. Home Health was not spared the knife.

The Dept. of Health Care Policy & Financing has notified HCAC that rates for Medicaid's skilled home health, private duty nursing and hospice services will be reduced by 1.5 percent -- virtually wiping out the rate increase that went into effect on July 1, 2008. The reduced rates are scheduled to go into effect on February 1 and run through June 30.

To sweeten this very bad news, HCPF said that Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) rates will not be reduced at this time.

HCAC Executive Director Ellen Caruso said that HCAC is terribly concerned that the home care industry's hard-earned rate increases would be cut for the most efficient and the most highly utilized services in the Medicaid program. However, she said, "It could have been much worse, and I'm afraid the cuts are not over." A new round of budget projections is due out on Friday, Jan. 23rd and the Joint Budget Committee is having difficulty balancing the budget for 2009-10.

Caruso said, "As the Joint Budget Committee deliberates state funding needs for the rest of this

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fiscal year as well as the next one that begins July 1, HCAC will continue to advocate for appropriate Medicaid reimbursement rates for all home care services that more adequately cover our members' costs."

Watch future issues of *The Management Report* for updated information as it is received.

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