

April 9, 2009

Home Care Association of Colorado Management Report

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New updates added weekly to

This edition of the *HCAC Management Report* features the association's recent efforts to seek parity in Medicaid rates for home care providers.

HCAC Seeks Parity In Medicaid Rates

The Home Care Association of Colorado has asked the state's General Assembly to insure parity with other providers in future Medicaid rate increases. An amendment offered in the House Appropriations Committee on Tuesday by Sen. Suzanne Williams (D- Denver) states that if in the future there is money for rate increases, all long term care providers would receive the same percentage of increase.

According to HCAC Executive Director Ellen Caruso, in the past, nursing homes have consistently received a much higher percentage of annual cost increases than home health care and other providers, without regard for the economy or the state budget. In Fiscal Year 2009-10, home care, private duty nursing and other health care providers are slated for a 1.5 percent rate cut in the last quarter of the year (April 1 to June 30, 2010) and there is a possibility that further cuts will be forthcoming if the economy continues to slide. "HCAC supports the continuum of care and this amendment to SB 09-263 levels the playing field for all providers on the continuum," Caruso said.

[Click here](#) to visit HCAC's member-only Legislative Bulletin to read the bill, the amendment and other details. Call your state senator and house member today to support the Home Health Care Amendment to SB 263.

HCAC "Home Care Licensure Central" Website



Read the latest news on home care licensure rule-making. This 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"

Quick Links...

- [Audio Conferences: Elizabeth Hogue 2009 Legal Series](#)
- [Register Today: HCAC Annual Convention & Home Care Exhibition, May 7-8, 2009](#)

Be sure to put this web address for the Legislative Bulletin in your favorites:
<http://www.hcaconline.org/state2009>

[Click Here for HCAC Member-Only State Legislative Bulletin Board](#)

Home Care Agencies Threatened

- [Register Today: OASIS Coding Workshop, April 15 - 17, 2009](#)

to Lose Referrals

- [Click here for Members Only State Legislative Bulletin Board](#)
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- [Read all about HCAC's 2008 Annual Convention](#)
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- [HCAR Article on Colorado Healthcare Summit](#)

HCAC has become aware that HCAC member agencies have been contacted by nursing home referral sources concerning the home health care amendment to SB 09-263 (see above article). Members are asked to please report these contacts to Ellen Caruso at 303-694-4728 Ext 12 or fax copies of any correspondence to HCAC at 303-694-4869.

Members may wish to use the response below to nursing home inquiries re: HCAC lobbying efforts.

First, [click here](#) to read these three items:

- One-page pdf describing the home health care amendment to SB 09-263.
- The amendment pdf (revised on 4/8/09 to clarify that there is no fiscal impact to the state in FY 2008-09 or FY 2009-10). In future fiscal years, the seated legislature at that time will decide if there will be any fiscal impact and what that fiscal impact will be.
- Colorado nursing home historical rate increase chart.

Suggested Response: "HCAC's amendment is simply asking for parity in future Medicaid rate increases. In the future there is money for rate increases, all long-term care providers would receive the same percentage of increase. HCAC is NOT lobbying against nursing home reimbursement or support of nursing home residents.

"In the past, nursing homes have consistently received a much higher percentage of annual cost increases than home health and other providers. HCAC supports the continuum of care and thereby supports leveling the playing field for all providers on the continuum.

"All Long Term Care providers hire from the same pool of caregivers (which is insufficient now and will become more insufficient after 2011). Home is where our sick, frail and elderly citizens usually prefer to be and this setting is the most economical and efficient health care setting. It is important that we all work together and develop the best health care system for Colorado that is feasible and we all have a place along the continuum but none have a more important place than any other.

"We're asking legislators on the state and national level to [help us choose home](#) for all Coloradans."

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Legislative Bulletin Board](#)

Home Care Licensure Fee Rule to be Heard by Board of Health on April 15th

[Click here](#) for the latest in home care licensure
news!

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