

HCAC e-news

May 20, 2003 ~ Published by Home Care Association of Colorado

PARTICIPATE IN VIRTUAL LOBBY DAY – WEDNESDAY, MAY 21 to FRIDAY, MAY 23

*(THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE YOUR WISHES KNOWN
TO COLORADO'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION)*

**MAKE YOUR PHONE CALL, SEND YOUR FAX, WRITE YOUR E-MAIL TO
SENATORS ALLARD AND CAMPBELL AND YOUR REPRESENTATIVE TO THE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THIS WEEK 😊**

October 1, 2002, was D-DAY for home health providers all across the land. (D is for DARK – you must have seen the cloud!) This was the day that a further cut in reimbursement went into affect for all Medicare home health services...

April 1, 2003 added salt to the wound when the 10% add-on for rural home health agencies was eliminated.

LET THE PEOPLE WHO REPRESENT YOU IN WASHINGTON KNOW HOW THESE ACTIONS HAVE AFFECTED YOUR ABILITY TO CONTINUE SERVING THE MOST FRAIL AND VULNERABLE COLORADO CITIZIENS WHO DESIRE TO RECEIVE THEIR MEDICAL CARE AND LIVE OUT THEIR LIVES IN THEIR OWN HOMES.

JOIN HUNDREDS OF OTHER HOME HEALTH AGENCIES THAT WILL BE MAKING THE PHONES RING IN THE U.S. SENATE AND HOUSE OFFICE BUILDINGS! MOST IMPORTANTLY SHOW YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS THAT YOU CARE ABOUT THE FUTURE OF HOME CARE IN OUR STATE!

TALKING POINTS:

- 1. Be sure to thank both Colorado senators (Wayne Allard and Ben Nighthorse Campbell) for voting last year to eliminate the 15% cut and for signing onto previous and the most recent letter to the Senate Finance Committee in opposition to the cut.**
- 2. Thank West Slope Congressman Scott McInnis who serves on the powerful House Ways & Means Committee for his efforts to eliminate the further cut and to extend the 10% add-on for rural home health agencies, as well as his staunch support for eliminating the OASIS requirement for private pay and commercial insurance clients.**
- 3. Remind them that the across-the-board congressional mandate (Interim Payment System) basically decimated the home health infrastructure in Colorado. IPS forced more than 80 home health agencies (more than a third in the state) to close their doors. This left many counties in the state of Colorado without home care services. We can't afford another round of closures in our state!**

Continued...

Averaging to correct for a few just doesn't work.

4. The Prospective Payment System for reimbursing home health agencies is still new. Some agencies are doing well; some are just barely making it or fast going under. Recent published statistics are weighted toward large agencies of which there are very few in the entire state of Colorado. Give PPS some time. Later "targeted" rate adjustments may have to be made.

5. Problems with case mix adjusters, flaws and unnecessary paperwork burdens of OASIS, and the workforce shortages just add to the mix.

Specifically request your elected officials to:

- ** Restore the 10 percent rural add-on,
- ** Preserve the fiscal year 2004 market basket inflation adjustment, and
- ** Reject co-payments on home health services which have been shown to reduce access to care.

**MAKE YOUR PHONE CALL, SEND YOUR FAX, WRITE YOUR E-MAIL TO
SENATORS ALLARD AND CAMPBELL AND YOUR MEMBER OF THE
U.S.HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THIS WEEK.
YOUR CONTACT WILL BE RECORDED AND REPORTED TO YOUR
ELECTED OFFICIAL! IT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE! ☺☺☺**

Senator Name	Phone	Fax	Health Aide and E-Mail
Senator Wayne Allard	202-224-5941	202-224-6471	Rachel Audi rachel_audi@allard.senate.gov
Senator Ben Nighthorse-Campbell	202-224-5852	202-228-4609	Vivian Otteman vivian_otteman@campbell.senate.gov
Rep. Diana DeGette	202-225-4431	202-225-5657	Dawn Jackson dawn.jackson@mail.house.gov
Rep. Tom Tancredo	202-225-7882	202-226-4623	Maureen McCulloh maureen.mcculloh@mail.house.gov
Rep. Scott McInnis	202-225-4761	202-226-0622	David Sprenger david.sprenger@mail.house.gov
Rep. Marilyn Musgrave	202-225-4676	202-225-5870	Erika Heikkila erika.heikkila@mail.house.gov
Rep. Mark Udall	202-225-2161	202-226-7840	Lawrence Pacheco lawrence.pacheco@mail.house.gov
Rep. Joel Hefley	202-225-4422	202-225-1942	Erika Schick erika.schick@mail.house.gov
Rep. Bob Beauprez	202-225-2645	202-225-5278	Danielle DeVere danielle.devere@mail.house.gov

VISIT HCAC'S WEB SITE TODAY!

www.hcaonline.org

***This e-news is brought to you as a benefit of your membership
in the Home Care Association of Colorado***