March on Washington Prep Webinar

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How to Lobby

• In Washington
  • Call Congressional offices to schedule
  • Factsheets
  • Meeting with Members and their staff
  • Follow up and Hill 2 Home

• Virtual
  • Calls and emails
  • NAHC Legislative Action Center
  • Social Media
Congressional Landscape

- March 23rd Omnibus
- ACA Repeal/Entitlement Reform
- Opioid Package
- Gun Control/Second Amendment
- Congressional Midterms
Value of Home Care

• First Choice, Best Option
  • Millions of Americans served each year
  • The preferred setting for medical care
  • Benefits in cost savings, quality of care, patient satisfaction and positive outcomes
  • Brings advanced medical therapies and medical equipment into the home comparable to institutional settings

• Cleveland Clinic study
• HHVBQP hospital cost avoidance outcome
BBA 2018: Technical Corrections re Medicare Home Health

- Payment reforms
  - 30 day unit of service vs. unit of payment
  - Behavioral adjustments
  - Implementation timeline
  - Demo program to start
- F2F Physician certification documentation
  - “may” to “shall”

- Rural add-on future plan
Non-Physician Practitioner Medicare Certification

• S. 445/H.R.1825, the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act
  • Authorizes NPPs to certify Medicare home health eligibility
  • Needed with shift to NPPs as primary care
  • Cosponsors: 41 Senators and 156 Representatives

• Coalition of NPPs and home health
Preserve Access/Ensure Safe Disposal of Opioids, Medications for Pain in Hospice

• State/federal activity; emerging issues:
• Prescribing:
  • Prescription time frames
  • “Bona fide” relationship
  • “Chilling effect”
• DEA prohibition on hospice disposal of unused controlled substances (state law)
• DEA production limits (supplies)
Preserve Access/Ensure Safe Disposal of Opioids, Medications for Pain in Hospice

• Recommendations:
  
  • Exclusions for hospice palliative care patients:
    • prescribing limits (S. 2456 – Cara 2.0)
    • “bona fide” relationship/examination requirements
  
  • Active coordination by DEA to ensure supplies of controlled substances
  
  • Allow hospice disposal of unused meds in the home (H.R. 5041)
Cosponsor Patient Choice and Quality Care Act (S. 1334/H.R. 2797)

• Model program under Medicare fee-for-service

• Test advanced illness management and early use of palliative care

• Advance Directives:
  • Access to advance care planning support tools
  • Promotes portability of advance directives

• Facilitates development/use of quality measures for advanced illness, palliative, and end-of-life care
Monitor Hospital “Early Discharge” to Hospice

• BBA 2018 hospital DRG payments are reduced for “early discharge” to hospice care (eff. 10/2018)

• Concerns:
  • Delayed referral to hospice
  • Delayed discussion of hospice as care option

• Recommendation: Closely monitor, enforce discharge planning rights and honor advance directives
Additional Hospice Issues

- Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA) S. 693/H.R. 1676 – authorize increase in palliative care training opportunities at medical, nursing, social work and other institutions

- Rural Access to Hospice Act S. 980/H.R. 1828– Permit RHCs and FQHCs to bill for attending physician services