Home care has long been a safe and effective alternative to care in an institutional setting. Medicare reform to provide viable, extended care services at home for patients who otherwise have only one choice, the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) benefit, is long overdue.

The risks and limitations of SNFs has been vividly demonstrated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Beyond the pandemic crisis, extended care at home also makes sense. Nearly 33% of patients who go to SNFs have identical frailty scores to those who receive care at home. The main difference in these patients is that they lack access to extended caregiver services and certain other supplemental health care supports.
The Choose Home Care Act of 2021, S. 2562, is a cost-effective and patient preferred home-based extended care benefit as a supplement to the existing home health benefit that supports patients to leave the hospital and recover at home with a mix of expanded skilled nursing, therapy, personal care, telehealth services and more. Eligible patients can choose to recover at home in a safe home environment with sufficient care tailored to meet their individual needs and reduced Medicare spending.

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TOP STORIES

The Retreat is the Private Duty Event of the Year

Join us at The Retreat!
Register for the 2021 Home Care and Hospice Conference and Expo

The 2021 Home Care and Hospice Conference and Expo from October 3-5 in the great city of New Orleans will be three days of the best learning, teaching, and networking in the industry, but it will also be a time to reflect on the events and exertions of the past year-and-a-half and to look forward to a brighter future.

Join your fellow home care leaders in the private duty community at The Retreat, a one-day interactive meeting connecting industry
executives together for learning, support, and the sharing of ideas.

Attendees will take part in a transformative master class led by author, executive coach, and keynote speaker, Chester Elton. In the afternoon, we will take a deep dive into the workforce challenges, with presentations from industry experts discussing their insights, best practices, and meaningful solutions.

For a brief look at what you can expect from Chester Elton, we encourage you to watch this video, as he explains some of his keen insights into building a strong culture at your workplace.

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Hill Hearing Highlights Differing Approaches to Support Direct Care Workers

A July 20 hearing of the House of Representatives Committee on Education & Labor (E&L) revealed sharp differences in preferred solutions to the challenge of building a strong direct care workforce, even as members largely agreed what those challenges are and that the federal government has a role to play in overcoming them.

During the hearing, many Democrats expressed support for the Direct Creation, Advancement, and Retention of Employment (CARE) Opportunity Act (H.R. 2999), a bill introduced in May by E&L Chairman Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA). That bill would allocate more than $1 billion in federal grants over five
years to improve recruitment, career advancement, training and more for direct care workers. A slightly different companion bill in the Senate, the Supporting Our Direct Care Workforce and Family Caregivers Act (S. 2344) was also recently introduced last week.

Private Duty Home Care at NAHC Extends our Congratulations to our Newest Certified Agency!

The National Association for Home Care and Hospice (NAHC) unveiled its Private Duty Home Care Certification Program in 2020, and we are excited and delighted to extend our congratulations to our newest certified agency!

Howard County Home Health & Hospice, d/b/a/ Hometown Homecare

- 10 Furr Street
- Fayette, MO 65248

This program is the only national certification created by private duty leaders, exclusively for the private duty community. Certification offers providers the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to quality and service delivery excellence through formal certification and requires each agency location to conduct a comprehensive examination relating to nineteen (19) separate but interrelated aspects of business and operations providing documentation and an attestation statement showing adherence to all Certification program standards in each category in order to achieve the distinction.
Home Care Industry Update

- **Thursday, August 26, 2021**
- **Noon to 2 PM Eastern**
- **Register now**

Please join Polsinelli, the National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC), and Home Care Association of America (HCAOA) for a legal update for the Home-Based Care Industry (home health, home care and hospice providers). We will discuss the latest legislative and regulatory developments, including an update on:

- the new OSHA Emergency Temporary Standard and its application to home care providers,
- Biden’s Executive Order seeking to ban non-compete agreements, and
- the status of the PRO Act.

We will also update the audience on the sweeping changes proposed by the Biden Administration designed to make it easier for labor unions to organize the home-based care workforce and provide existing unions with more leverage than ever at the bargaining table. We will also provide practical, business-minded strategies to maintain a direct relationship with your workforce, reduce turnover and improve your employee engagement and satisfaction scores. Finally, we will discuss best practices for educating your
workforce about union organizing and maintaining an issue free work environment.

David Totaro of BAYADA Home Health Care: “We must remove partisanship from healthcare”

David Totaro joined BAYADA Home Health Care in June 2009 as chief government affairs officer. In this role, Mr. Totaro spearheaded the development of a far-reaching legislative advocacy program. His team of legislative professionals advocate daily for BAYADA clients and caregivers and regularly interact with legislative and regulatory officials at the state and federal levels. Mr. Totaro currently serves as founder and chairman of the Partnership for Medicaid Home-based Care (PMHC), a Washington, DC based alliance of Medicaid home care providers, managed care companies, national and state home care associations, and technology companies. He also serves as chairman of the Hospice Action Network (HAN). He is the Treasurer and a board member of the Partnership for Quality Home Healthcare and a board member of the National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC).

Thank you so much for doing this with us! Can you tell us a story about what brought you to this specific career path?

Well, I got to this role of chief government affairs officer at one of the leading home health care companies in the country, through a series of very fortunate happenstances. The first one, back in 1970, was during the height of
the Vietnam War, when I joined the Army National Guard and was sent to Ft. Knox, KY for my basic training and Advanced Infantry Training. At the reception station I was given #18. We stood in line according to our number all day long, getting our heads shaved, our uniforms, our equipment—and, so we spent a lot of that first day standing in line. I quickly struck up a friendship with #19, who also was a college graduate, going to grad school, like me, majoring in marketing. He turned out to be Mark Baiada, the eventual founder of BAYADA Home Health Care. If I had been #17—who knows where life might have taken me.

Webinar: Latest Legal Developments Impacting Registries, Virtual Marketplaces, and Other Consumer-Directed Independent Contracting Home Care Models

Join Polsinelli Shareholders, AssuriCare, and some of the top Consumer-Directed Care Operations for a four-part webinar series addressing the legal issues that impact the Independent Contractor Home Care models.

Part 1: Latest Legal Developments Impacting Registries, Virtual Marketplaces, and Other Consumer-Directed Independent Contracting Home Care Models

Wednesday, August 11, 2021 | 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM ET

The change of leadership after the 2020 election coupled with a pandemic has resulted in significant and pending legislative changes that greatly
impact the consumer-directed home-based care delivery models. Join Polsinelli Shareholder Angelo Spinola for a high-level overview of the latest laws, rulings, and legal trends impacting the range of independent contractor models prevalent within the home care industry. Angelo will guide you through the maze of legislative developments and discuss critical strategies and tools all independent contractor models should leverage to improve compliance through the volatile legislative landscape.

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Health Care Associations Call for Vaccine Mandate as Threat of the Delta Variant Grows

A number of major medical groups and senior services associations have joined forces to call for mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations for all health and long-term care workers. This national push for a mandate comes at a time when a new and more infectious strain of coronavirus — the Delta variant — is making the news.

“The Delta variant is more aggressive and much more transmissible than previously circulating strains,” CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky told reporters at a briefing Thursday. “It is one of the most infectious respiratory viruses we know of, and that I have seen, in my 20-year career.”

READ THE REST @ Home Health Care News
Webinar: Three Powerful Stories of Women Leading the Future of Health Care

August 17, 2021 - 2:00-3:00 PM ET
REGISTER

As we continue to gain insight into inequities in healthcare, patient outcomes are a primary focus but inequities also occur within the walls of healthcare, behind closed doors. It is imperative to increase awareness of these inequities so that we may begin to change the culture of healthcare from all angles. One such inequity is the way in which women in the healthcare workforce are seen and treated. Join three powerful women who have become leaders in this male dominated field. Facilitated by the Institute’s Senior Vice President, Stacy Palmer, Dr. Karen Frush, Maureen Bisognano and Dr. Rana Awdish will share their stories and their lessons as women leading the future of healthcare.

- Understand how Dr Frush’s path to becoming a physician was impacted by her gender.
- Gain insight into how Maureen Bisognano became one of the most influential women in healthcare and what role gender played or did not play.
- Being both a woman and a person of color, participants will learn how Dr. Awdish was able to manage bias and became a leader both inside her own hospital and across the world.

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RESOURCES

The Human Experience 2020: Vision for the Future of Health Care - The Beryl Institute

Littler Operational Guidelines for the Home Care Industry Amid COVID 19 - Littler Mendelson, P.C.

PDHCA Education - PDHCA Website

Private Duty Home Care at NAHC is a fully integrated service line of the National Association for Home Care & Hospice focused on Leadership, Education, Advocacy, and Innovation exclusively for the private duty home care community.

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