



Residents News-Mail

December 16, 2020

Update on Proposed Medicare/Medicaid Reimbursement Changes

At the end of October of this year, many of you contacted your legislators about proposed changes by CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) to Medicare/Medicaid reimbursements that would adversely affect seniors. Of particular concern to CCRC residents are proposed changes to services for the elderly, especially physical, speech, and occupational therapy.

Today, we have some good news! Our legislators in Washington D.C. are working on a bill that puts a 2-year freeze on Medicare services set for 2021 pay cuts. In an AMA newsletter dated November 13, 2020, Kevin B. O'Reilly stated: "A coalition of organizations representing physicians and allied health professionals, including the AMA, sent a letter to congressional leadership expressing support for H.R. 8702, the "Holding Providers Harmless from Medicare Cuts During COVID-19 Act of 2020." The bill was introduced by Reps. Ami Bera, MD, a California Democrat and Larry Bucshon, MD, a Republican from Indiana." This bill would freeze payments for services, scheduled to be cut in 2021, for a period of 2 years.

A legislative assistant to Cathy McMorris Rogers, Kristin Flukey, indicated to WACCRA President Donna Kristaponis that the Energy and Commerce Committee staff are working hard on negotiating a fix with House Democrats and the Senate. The proposed changes are scheduled to go into effect January 1, 2021, so time is of the essence.

Thanks to all WACCRA members who took time to contact our legislators and alert them to the devastating impact of the proposed cuts. Stay tuned for further updates on the progress of H.R. 8702.

Happy Holidays to all!

Monica Clement

Communications Committee Chair

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