



Virginia Academy of Sleep Medicine Competitive Bidding Initiative

The VASM Board unanimously agreed to take action regarding Competitive Bidding and we need your help! There are two simple steps the VASM can take to speak out about how the Medicare competitive bidding program for durable medical equipment is impacting quality care for sleep apnea patients.

1. Congress still needs to hear from the patients who are frustrated with the program. **People for Quality Care** has free informational cards that direct patients to call the Beneficiary Complaint Hotline. **People for Quality Care** creates a report that is sent to Congress on a regular basis. Also, those who call (patients, clinicians and physicians) can choose to be transferred directly to the Congressional switchboard where they will connect with their representative or senator.
 - To request the cards to distribute to your patients, simply email beth.cox@peopleforqualitycare.org with your physical address and the number of cards you feel you can distribute. **People for Quality Care** will send as few as 25 cards to as many as 1,000 cards at no cost!
2. It's also important for you to tell YOUR story of how competitive bidding is hurting your practice and patients.
 - To email a message to Congress from your computer, go to www.peopleforqualitycare.org. In the middle of the page enter your zip code where it says "EMAIL CONGRESS." Follow the instructions where you will find an editable pre-written message. Please add your own information to the letter in the editable portion. It will be more powerful if you tell your Congress person your personal story.

People for Quality Care is an advocacy organization that has been dedicated to fighting the Medicare competitive bidding program for the previous three years. They focus on patient engagement in the issue, acting as a place for patients to be politically active and tell their stories, and a place for the medical community to advocate on behalf of their patients. PFQC is the advocacy division of the VGM Group.

For more information or if you'd like to help, please contact Mary Mondul, VASM Secretary: mmondul@yahoo.com or 434-728-0407.

Thank you!