MAY 20 2015

Ms. Patricia M. Kelleher
Executive Director
Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts
31 St. James Avenue, Suite 780
Boston, MA 02116

Re: Home Health Growth in Massachusetts

Dear Ms. Kelleher:

Thank you for your letter regarding home health agency growth in Massachusetts and your request that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) consider the use of the enrollment moratorium authority to address this growth. The Center for Program Integrity (CPI) remains the component within CMS responsible for determining whether or not a specific moratorium is necessary and appropriate to combat fraud, waste, or abuse in the Medicare program.

Before the initial implementation of the moratorium in July 2013, CPI analyzed data, such as home health agency growth rates, utilization, and billing trends, in order to determine where, geographically, enrollment moratoria are best suited to combat fraud, waste, or abuse in the Medicare program. This monitoring and analysis continues as we assess trends that impact program integrity. The data you have presented, indicating a growth rate of 80% in the past five years, as well as 83 pending applications, may or may not indicate a trend associated with a high risk of fraud, waste or abuse within the Massachusetts home health provider community. CPI will apply the criteria found at 42 CFR 424.570, in conjunction with independent data, to make a determination as to whether this type of increase represents a significant potential for risk to programs.

While we do not share information on prospective moratoria, please know that we remain actively engaged in assessing the appropriateness of this authority in all geographic areas and among all provider and supplier types.

CMS thanks you for presenting us with these updated, specific factors for consideration and for your continued support in protecting the integrity of the public healthcare system through
moratoria. We support states in their efforts to control waste, abuse and fraud, and appreciate the opportunity to partner with you to improve our programs.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Shantanu Agrawal, MD
Deputy Administrator and Director
Center for Program Integrity