State Plan Amendment Calls for 15% Reimbursement Cut to Home Health Med. Admin.

On May 31, the Dept. of Social Services (DSS) submitted a Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) calling for the reduction in reimbursement for medication administration provided by home health agencies by up to 15% effective July 1, 2016.

The Association staff, its lobbyists and 70 of its impacted members held a conference call on June 2 to review the facts and develop a grassroots action plan.

DSS provides a 30-day public comment period which closes June 30. The Association and its member agencies will initiate a coordinated messaging campaign communicating the impact on the behavioral health population. Member outreach to state legislators, town mayors, the media and state agencies will take place over the next 3 weeks. Detailed talking points will be provided in the coming days.

According to DSS, this reduction is necessary to improve the economy and efficiency of reimbursement for this service and also to implement the state budget for state fiscal years 2016 and 2017 that was approved by the General Assembly. DSS is proposing this SPA in accordance with applicable general authority and also specific authority in section 17b-242(c) of the 2016 supplement to the Connecticut General Statutes.

Read the DSS Bulletin here View Bulletin

Read the Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) documents here SPA 16-023-Home Health Medication Administration Reimbursement Reduction
Congressman Jim Himes Visits Ridgefield VNA, Hears Provider Challenges

Report Released on Caregiver Turnover

Caregiver turnover is too high, and home health providers are seeing it as a top threat to the industry, according to a recent report. With staff retention on the forefront of providers’ minds, understanding caregivers-why they choose to work for a provider or choose to leave-is becoming all the more essential.

There are a number of areas providers can improve in order to reduce turnover, including where they hire, training hours and competitive pay. It may help providers to understand why caregivers choose to work for a provider in the first place.

Here are the top 5 reasons caregivers chose to work for a provider in 2015, according to Home Care Pulse's annual Private Duty Benchmarking Study:

1. Good working environment and benefits
2. Working schedule met lifestyle
3. Company has a good reputation
4. Company was recommended to them
5. First job applied for

Health System Data Proves
Palliative Care Pays Off

Source: homehealthcarenews.com

Palliative care has been gaining steam as a crucial service over the last few years, but increasing its accessibility is largely dependent on figuring out how to pay for it. Without much in the way of reimbursements from federal payers, palliative care providers have traditionally been few and far between. However, some health systems are Read Full Article

Sprint Informational Session:
Mobility Solutions for Homecare
Date: 6/8/2016
Time: From 1:30-2:00 PM
Members Only

Education Committee
Date: 6/9/2016

Spring 2016 Home Health Aide
Teleconference Series: The
Aide's Role in Nutrition and
Food Handling
Date: 6/9/2016
Time: 3:00-4:00 PM

All workshops and meetings are held at 110 Barnes Road, Wallingford - unless otherwise noted. Please register for SIG meetings on cthealthcareathome.org.

Please call (203) 265-9931 with questions or register online by visiting www.cthealthcareathome.org