Current News

Association Submits Proposed EVV Legislation, Provider Concerns Aired in News Article

The Association continues to advocate for both home health and home care agencies regarding EVV implementation challenges and drafted legislation to be introduced by the Human Services Committee during the 2017 CT legislative session.

CT Mirror healthcare news reporter, Arielle Levin Becker, wrote an extensive story, "Home Care Agencies Warn New System Could Cause Major Problems", quoting the Association, home health and home care providers, and DSS. The article ran on Dec. 30 and also ran in the Meriden Record Journal on Jan. 1.

Connecticut Mirror Article

Legislative Session Opened Jan. 4
CT Releases List of Major Legislative Issues for 2017

The non-partisan Office of Legislative Research issues a special report every year assessing what the major issues for the coming year might be.

The full report may be accessed here. Aging in Place, Long Term Services and Supports, and Insurance Coverage for Substance Abuse are priority issues that will impact home health agencies.

- The full PRI report may be viewed here - PRI on December 7, 2016 (113 pages)
- The OLR Report can be viewed here - OLR 2015-R-0215 (8 pages)
- The CT Long-Term Care Planning Report - CT Long-Term Care (70 pages)
- Substance Use Disorder Treatment - PA 16-43 (16 pages)
- Insurance Commissioner Study - SA 16-4 (1 page)

Invitation: Feb. 28 Legislative Breakfast and Healthcare at Home "Day at the
All Association members are invited to attend the annual Legislative Breakfast and Healthcare at Home "Day at the State Capitol" on Tues., Feb. 28 from 8 am to 10 am at the Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Ave., Hartford. The event is free. Come mingle with your colleagues and hear from state legislators, Association leaders and our lobbyists about the "State of the State" and share our united voice about home care and hospice.

View the invitation and register on our website

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2017 Federal Legislative Priorities

The National Association for Home Care and Hospice (NAHC) is developing its 2017 federal advocacy priorities. It will continue to support longstanding Congressional champions and establish new relationships to further home health and hospice. NAHC’s 2017 legislative priorities include:

- Secession of the CMS pre-claim review demonstration
- Modification of the Face-to-Face (F2F) Home Health Physician Documentation Requirement
- Authority to allow non-physicians to sign F2F certifications and care plans
- Extension of the Medicare Home Health Rural Add-on
- Authorization authority for Physician Assistants to serve as hospice attending physicians
- Adoption and use health IT and telehealth technologies

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CMS Announces New Statewide ACOs for Dual Eligible Beneficiaries

On December 15th the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) announced a new type of accountable care organization (ACO) focusing on coordinating the care of the dual eligibles. This model would allow for the combination of Medicare and Medicaid funds to comprehensively manage a patient in their own home with greater access to services and payments. According to MedPAC, duals or the dual eligibles - those who are eligible for Medicare and Medicaid - are beneficiaries who account for a disproportionate share of home health spending. Through the enabled ability to wrap payment types and services, home health agencies will be able to receive reimbursement for a great number of services that will better coordinate the care of these patients. Care coordination plays a key role in improving quality, creating system efficiencies and lowering costs, such a comprehensive model would focus on care coordination that could be provided by home health agencies.

CMS is currently accepting letters of intent from states to work with CMS on the model for certain state-specific elements. The agency will enter into participation agreements with up to six states. Once a state is approved, a request for application will be released to ACOs and health care providers in that state. Click here to read the announcement from CMS.
CMS Releases Second Year of Home Health Utilization and Payment Data

CMS posted the second annual release of the home health agency Public Use File (PUF) on the [Home Health Agencies Data webpage](#) with data for 2014. The PUF presents summarized information on services provided to Medicare beneficiaries by home health agencies, including information on utilization, payment, submitted charges, and demographic and chronic condition indicators organized by CMS Certification Number, Home Health Resource Group, and state of service. The new 2014 PUF has information for 10,882 home health agencies, over 6 million claims, and almost $18 billion in Medicare payments. Demographic and chronic condition information is new for this release.

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**Register Now: Boston Northeast Home Health Leadership Summit**

January 17-19, 2017

[View agenda for the annual Northeast Regional Leadership Summit and reservation information](#) for the Colonnade Hotel in Boston or view [brochure](#).

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KanTime Healthcare Software
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For all upcoming events check out our online calendar of events.

Spring 2017 Home Health Aide Teleconference Series: Who Can Sleep Tight...When Bed Bugs Bite!
1/12/2017
Time: 3:00-4:00 PM
Register

Community Awareness Committee Meeting
1/13/2017
Time: 9 - 11 am
Location: Wallingford, Connecticut

Northeast Home Health Leadership Summit
1/17/2017 » 1/19/2017
Location: Boston, Massachusetts

What is Lymphedema? Understanding Disease Process, Impact and Management
1/18/2017
Time: From 3:00-4:00 PM
Register

Is Your Scheduler 2017 Ready?
1/19/2017
Time: From 11:30-1:00 PM
Register

OASIS-C2: Focus on Accuracy 5-Part Webinar Series
1/19/2017 » 2/16/2017
Time: 3:00 - 4:30 PM
Register

Employee Satisfaction + Patient Satisfaction = Success (3 Part Webinar Series)
1/25/2017 » 2/22/2017
Time: 1:00- 2:00PM
Register

Bereavement & Volunteer Coordinators SIG
1/26/2017
Time: 12:30 - 3:30 pm

Hospice Billing 3-Part Webinar Series
1/26/2017 » 2/28/2017
Time: 11:30am-1:00pm
Register

Board of Directors Meeting
1/27/2017
Clinical Sup. & Quality Management/Therapist & Rehab Sup. JOINT SIG Meeting
1/31/2017
Time: 9 am - Noon
Location: Wallingford

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

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

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