



Minnesota Home Care Association

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2025 Government Relations Agenda

As Approved by the MHCA Board of Directors on October 1, 2024.

The MHCA believes that individuals should have access to necessary, cost effective, and evidenced-informed home care services and that the infrastructure for and access to such services be promoted in Minnesota. Accordingly, the MHCA supports and will actively work for legislative, administrative, regulatory, and other initiatives that will promote the following policies:

Stabilize the Home Care Access Infrastructure. Low funding levels for home care services are jeopardizing the sustainability of Minnesota's infrastructure of services for those individuals who need and want health and long-term care services delivered in their homes. While important steps were taken during past sessions to begin addressing the low reimbursement rates for certain home care services, there remain critical home care services that are significantly underfunded and therefore increasingly challenging for service providers to be able to offer.

Care Evaluation Reimbursement . *The MHCA will lead legislative and non-legislative efforts to address lack of sufficient reimbursement for the evaluation-related visits that take place during a course of home care: Start of Care, Recertification of Care, and Resumption of Care. These evaluation-related visits are mandated and critical to the care of the client. They take longer than a typical nursing visit but are not recognized or reimbursed as a distinctive service.*

Rates for Home Care Services. *For state-funded services provided by its members, as necessary and appropriate, the MHCA will:*

- *Continue to lead in its long-term effort to move the Medical Assistance base rates for home health care services and home care nursing services to rates comparable to the Medicare rate for similar services; and,*
- *Monitor and engage in other home care rate proposals, as necessary and appropriate.*

One-time Grants: *Seek one-time grants for home care career awareness and other initiatives that would stabilize the infrastructure for home care services.*



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Regulatory and Payment Integrity. The challenge for every provider is to make sure they receive adequate reimbursement rates for the services provided; to hire, train and maintain quality staff to provide high quality services to its clients; and to manage costs to make certain that publicly funded home care services are provided in the most efficient and effective ways possible. Much can be done to improve the efficiency of providers by reducing unnecessary administrative burdens imposed both by the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) and managed care organizations (MCO).

Department of Human Services (DHS) Burdens. *The MHCA will collaborate with other stakeholders to address DHS regulations and processes that add barriers and at times threaten the existence of high quality and respected home care providers, including the Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) implementation for home health providers, Community First Services and Supports (CFSS) implementation, timely processing of Medical Assistance renewals at the county level, fraud and abuse investigatory overreach, and billing issues related to Registered Nurses (RN) and Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN).*

Managed Care Organization (MCO) Burdens. *The MHCA will work with MCOs and other stakeholders to improve processes that will result in less administrative burdens for providers including the Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) implementation for home health providers, addressing the system concerning the notice of caregiver ineligibility, improving the error resolution assistance process, and advocating for more standardized processes and platforms for home care services provided through Minnesota Public Health Care programs. Overall, the MHCA will engage MCOs to improve their relationships with home care providers.*

Engage in Other Home Care Issues. Many known and unknown issues of interest to MHCA members could be brought forward in 2025.

The MHCA will engage on issues as necessary to ensure a strong and viable home care system in Minnesota. This would include monitoring and engaging issues impacting Home Care in Minnesota.