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Ensure Medicare Home Health Payment Rates Are Adequate To Protect Access to Care

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that would cut home health payment rates by 3.79 percent in 2011

With the regulatory cuts alone nearly half of all home health agencies will be paid less than the cost of care to Medicare patients. With these negative margins many providers are likely to go out of business, creating a serious threat to access to care. These regulatory rate cuts are based on CMS' claim that providers' claim coding behavior has increased Medicare expenditures while home health patients are essentially no sicker than before. However, it is clear that home health agencies are taking care of sicker patients with greater needs for therapy, nursing care and home health aide services.

Congress should bar CMS from instituting regulatory cuts beyond those required under the Affordable Care Act until all rate changes under the Act are fully implemented. Congress should also pass the Home Health Care Access Protection Act of 2010 (H.R. 5803; S. 3315) to require accountable and transparent assessment of coding changes before rate reductions are imposed.

Percentage of Home Health Agencies with Margins of 0 or Less by Congressional District Served

Potential Risks from a Combination of a CMS Regulatory Payment Cut of 3.79% in 2011 and 2012 with Scheduled Rate Cuts Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148)

	2011	2012
NATIONAL	41.2%	49.6%
Alabama		
1	22.6%	35.5%
2	30.2%	39.5%
3	36.2%	46.8%
4	42.0%	54.0%
5	42.3%	46.2%
6	36.8%	52.6%
7	31.0%	43.1%
Alaska		
1	91.7%	91.7%
Arizona		
1	50.0%	59.4%
2	39.5%	44.7%
3	33.3%	40.7%
4	37.9%	44.8%
5	28.6%	35.7%

	2011	2012
6	25.8%	35.5%
7	29.0%	36.8%
8	42.9%	57.1%
Arkansas		
1	46.5%	55.8%
2	47.1%	52.9%
3	50.0%	59.5%
4	44.9%	53.6%
California		
1	52.4%	59.5%
2	50.0%	53.9%
3	61.5%	64.1%
4	47.7%	54.6%
5	38.1%	42.9%
6	63.3%	76.7%
7	51.7%	62.1%
8	48.2%	55.6%
9	54.6%	63.6%
10	54.6%	63.6%
11	54.1%	59.5%
12	48.3%	58.6%
13	43.3%	53.3%
14	46.7%	53.3%
15	52.0%	56.0%
16	36.4%	40.9%
17	80.0%	80.0%
18	45.5%	59.1%
19	51.7%	58.6%
20	47.8%	56.5%
21	43.5%	52.2%
22	45.2%	51.6%
23	51.2%	53.7%
24	45.4%	52.6%
25	51.1%	61.4%
26	53.4%	64.8%
27	51.6%	61.3%
28	53.5%	64.5%
29	52.6%	63.2%
30	52.5%	61.0%
31	53.5%	63.4%
32	55.5%	67.4%
33	53.0%	62.8%
34	52.8%	64.6%
35	54.3%	63.7%
36	51.2%	60.6%
37	54.6%	65.4%
38	53.2%	64.8%
39	55.2%	64.7%
40	54.6%	66.9%

	2011	2012
41	51.6%	65.6%
42	56.5%	66.9%
43	55.7%	68.7%
44	53.6%	67.4%
45	51.2%	71.4%
46	53.7%	62.8%
47	55.1%	68.1%
48	54.6%	67.7%
49	47.5%	58.8%
50	34.5%	44.8%
51	32.0%	44.0%
52	34.6%	46.2%
53	33.3%	42.9%
Colorado		
1	21.6%	24.3%
2	30.2%	32.6%
3	43.6%	49.1%
4	36.7%	40.0%
5	28.6%	32.1%
6	21.3%	23.4%
7	20.9%	20.9%
Connecticut		
1	17.5%	22.5%
2	26.8%	29.3%
3	22.5%	30.0%
4	17.1%	25.7%
5	20.4%	24.5%
Delaware		
1	31.3%	34.4%
District of Columbia		
1	29.7%	34.1%
Florida		
1	29.7%	43.2%
2	34.0%	46.0%
3	32.5%	37.7%
4	36.0%	40.0%
5	32.2%	38.5%
6	34.1%	40.7%
7	30.8%	36.3%
8	33.0%	38.6%
9	30.2%	34.4%
10	34.9%	39.7%
11	29.1%	34.9%
12	27.4%	33.7%
13	26.0%	37.0%
14	29.5%	37.7%
15	24.8%	33.0%
16	27.1%	36.1%
17	28.6%	39.1%

	2011	2012
18	28.0%	37.4%
19	31.5%	41.5%
20	29.5%	40.4%
21	28.8%	39.3%
22	33.9%	43.7%
23	31.9%	40.4%
24	30.7%	37.3%
25	28.2%	37.9%
Georgia		
1	36.4%	45.5%
2	53.3%	66.7%
3	33.3%	33.3%
4	23.8%	23.8%
5	41.4%	41.4%
6	23.1%	23.1%
7	19.2%	19.2%
8	35.7%	38.1%
9	36.4%	36.4%
10	19.4%	22.6%
11	32.3%	32.3%
12	34.6%	34.6%
13	36.7%	36.7%
Hawaii		
1	60.0%	80.0%
2	75.0%	87.5%
Idaho		
1	50.0%	58.3%
2	45.0%	50.0%
Illinois		
1	32.4%	40.3%
2	31.5%	39.6%
3	31.0%	38.8%
4	30.6%	38.4%
5	31.1%	38.6%
6	33.9%	41.4%
7	30.1%	38.2%
8	32.0%	38.4%
9	30.5%	38.3%
10	30.4%	37.9%
11	35.0%	42.9%
12	37.0%	50.0%
13	32.0%	39.3%
14	35.4%	43.4%
15	43.1%	51.4%
16	32.2%	39.9%
17	36.0%	49.3%
18	50.0%	58.6%
19	39.7%	50.8%
Indiana		

	2011	2012
1	32.8%	39.7%
2	32.0%	38.0%
3	42.9%	48.6%
4	37.5%	47.9%
5	34.6%	46.2%
6	36.6%	48.8%
7	29.4%	44.1%
8	37.2%	46.5%
9	42.6%	48.9%
Iowa		
1	38.6%	43.2%
2	38.6%	42.1%
3	42.0%	48.0%
4	48.2%	53.0%
5	41.0%	45.8%
Kansas		
1	43.7%	47.9%
2	55.2%	60.3%
3	41.4%	44.8%
4	47.7%	52.3%
Kentucky		
1	41.3%	47.8%
2	41.8%	47.3%
3	33.3%	38.9%
4	29.6%	34.1%
5	25.5%	40.0%
6	39.5%	44.7%
Louisiana		
1	32.4%	39.2%
2	37.5%	41.1%
3	36.4%	42.4%
4	23.5%	30.9%
5	26.9%	35.9%
6	27.0%	33.8%
7	19.6%	28.6%
Maine		
1	45.0%	60.0%
2	45.8%	58.3%
Maryland		
1	27.6%	44.8%
2	26.7%	43.3%
3	35.3%	52.9%
4	35.5%	41.9%
5	22.6%	35.5%
6	34.2%	48.8%
7	25.0%	43.8%
8	24.0%	32.0%
Massachusetts		
1	24.0%	30.0%

	2011	2012
2	25.5%	33.3%
3	21.9%	31.3%
4	23.6%	32.7%
5	25.0%	34.6%
6	22.7%	36.4%
7	19.6%	31.4%
8	21.6%	33.3%
9	22.0%	32.2%
10	20.3%	32.2%
Michigan		
1	40.9%	53.0%
2	35.0%	50.0%
3	37.8%	48.9%
4	28.0%	40.0%
5	28.7%	43.6%
6	36.4%	42.4%
7	32.9%	42.9%
8	24.4%	39.1%
9	35.1%	45.0%
10	30.8%	41.9%
11	36.5%	46.0%
12	37.1%	46.9%
13	38.5%	47.9%
14	38.5%	47.6%
15	35.7%	44.9%
Minnesota		
1	55.6%	66.7%
2	51.3%	56.4%
3	46.4%	57.1%
4	42.3%	53.9%
5	46.4%	53.6%
6	42.9%	51.4%
7	45.3%	50.0%
8	55.6%	57.8%
Mississippi		
1	16.1%	22.6%
2	14.3%	17.1%
3	18.2%	24.2%
4	22.2%	33.3%
Missouri		
1	28.6%	34.7%
2	33.3%	35.4%
3	38.2%	41.8%
4	52.9%	60.0%
5	41.2%	47.1%
6	52.9%	60.3%
7	50.0%	52.9%
8	49.1%	57.9%
9	45.7%	51.9%

	2011	2012
Montana		
1	62.9%	68.6%
Nebraska		
1	47.9%	50.0%
2	22.7%	27.3%
3	71.4%	73.8%
Nevada		
1	47.5%	57.5%
2	50.9%	60.4%
3	52.2%	63.0%
New Hampshire		
1	26.5%	41.2%
2	21.4%	31.0%
New Jersey		
1	42.9%	47.6%
2	45.5%	50.0%
3	40.0%	52.0%
4	54.6%	59.1%
5	61.1%	61.1%
6	63.6%	63.6%
7	61.9%	66.7%
8	37.5%	37.5%
9	46.2%	53.9%
10	50.0%	58.3%
11	45.5%	50.0%
12	63.6%	63.6%
13	66.7%	77.8%
New Mexico		
1	41.2%	47.1%
2	37.7%	47.2%
3	46.2%	48.7%
New York		
1	40.0%	55.0%
2	50.0%	62.5%
3	54.6%	63.6%
4	66.7%	71.4%
5	64.0%	68.0%
6	68.4%	68.4%
7	71.4%	76.2%
8	78.3%	87.0%
9	81.8%	86.4%
10	86.7%	86.7%
11	81.3%	81.3%
12	84.2%	84.2%
13	72.2%	77.8%
14	69.6%	73.9%
15	92.9%	92.9%
16	63.6%	72.7%

	2011	2012
17	52.6%	63.2%
18	45.0%	55.0%
19	45.8%	58.3%
20	79.0%	84.2%
21	69.2%	73.1%
22	54.8%	67.7%
23	62.5%	68.8%
24	48.3%	62.1%
25	37.5%	56.3%
26	47.4%	68.4%
27	28.6%	50.0%
28	45.5%	63.6%
29	42.1%	73.7%
North Carolina		
1	16.1%	25.8%
2	29.5%	36.1%
3	22.0%	26.8%
4	35.1%	43.2%
5	28.6%	36.7%
6	28.1%	40.6%
7	16.2%	27.0%
8	22.9%	29.2%
9	16.7%	26.7%
10	33.3%	40.5%
11	27.3%	33.3%
12	22.2%	33.3%
13	34.0%	41.5%
North Dakota		
1	65.0%	65.0%
Ohio		
1	15.4%	15.4%
2	11.9%	16.4%
3	16.4%	19.7%
4	33.8%	33.8%
5	36.8%	40.8%
6	21.0%	28.6%
7	23.4%	26.2%
8	14.9%	17.9%
9	41.5%	45.3%
10	44.9%	49.0%
11	45.1%	47.1%
12	28.4%	32.1%
13	38.1%	42.9%
14	37.0%	41.1%
15	30.8%	33.3%
16	37.5%	42.2%
17	38.6%	42.1%
18	34.3%	40.2%
Oklahoma		

	2011	2012
1	44.4%	51.4%
2	40.3%	52.2%
3	42.5%	54.4%
4	40.7%	55.6%
5	42.1%	53.7%
Oregon		
1	62.5%	75.0%
2	72.7%	84.9%
3	40.0%	60.0%
4	70.8%	79.2%
5	62.5%	68.8%
Pennsylvania		
1	26.7%	35.6%
2	27.9%	32.6%
3	25.5%	32.7%
4	25.9%	33.3%
5	29.7%	34.4%
6	29.8%	33.3%
7	23.4%	25.5%
8	26.9%	30.8%
9	31.7%	41.8%
10	25.0%	36.8%
11	28.4%	38.3%
12	25.7%	31.4%
13	24.6%	29.2%
14	24.4%	33.3%
15	32.6%	37.2%
16	29.7%	32.4%
17	29.8%	36.8%
18	27.9%	37.7%
19	32.3%	45.2%
Rhode Island		
1	11.8%	29.4%
2	9.5%	28.6%
South Carolina		
1	26.1%	30.4%
2	41.4%	44.8%
3	39.1%	52.2%
4	47.8%	52.2%
5	34.3%	34.3%
6	41.2%	47.1%
South Dakota		
1	55.3%	61.7%
Tennessee		
1	28.6%	37.1%
2	32.4%	44.1%
3	29.4%	37.3%
4	21.0%	27.2%
5	12.1%	18.2%

	2011	2012
6	20.0%	24.0%
7	23.5%	29.4%
8	20.0%	25.0%
9	42.1%	47.4%
Texas		
1	37.8%	46.9%
2	49.1%	59.5%
3	40.4%	52.5%
4	37.8%	50.6%
5	40.0%	51.8%
6	42.1%	51.1%
7	51.1%	60.5%
8	45.8%	56.6%
9	51.3%	60.8%
10	48.5%	59.0%
11	42.2%	51.2%
12	40.2%	51.2%
13	44.8%	53.1%
14	49.4%	58.1%
15	42.2%	53.4%
16	34.0%	42.0%
17	41.6%	50.0%
18	50.8%	60.5%
19	46.1%	54.8%
20	44.8%	59.1%
21	41.7%	55.1%
22	50.7%	59.4%
23	38.3%	49.2%
24	40.1%	51.3%
25	48.1%	57.9%
26	39.9%	50.6%
27	39.5%	50.7%
28	39.7%	52.6%
29	51.1%	61.2%
30	41.5%	52.3%
31	35.2%	49.1%
32	41.0%	51.9%
Utah		
1	28.1%	40.4%
2	26.2%	36.1%
3	28.3%	38.3%
Vermont		
1	31.3%	43.8%
Virginia		
1	40.9%	47.0%
2	31.4%	42.9%
3	32.7%	42.3%
4	39.0%	47.5%
5	38.2%	43.6%

	2011	2012
6	33.3%	41.0%
7	49.0%	55.1%
8	37.5%	46.9%
9	36.8%	45.6%
10	41.7%	47.2%
11	45.7%	51.4%
Washington		
1	28.6%	35.7%
2	50.0%	50.0%
3	46.7%	53.3%
4	50.0%	56.3%
5	38.5%	46.2%
6	42.9%	42.9%
7	55.6%	55.6%
8	43.8%	50.0%
9	50.0%	50.0%
West Virginia		
1	37.8%	53.3%
2	34.1%	47.7%
3	29.6%	38.6%
Wisconsin		
1	33.3%	36.1%
2	73.3%	76.7%
3	63.4%	70.7%
4	25.0%	25.0%
5	44.0%	48.0%
6	57.9%	63.2%
7	75.7%	81.1%
8	66.7%	72.2%
Wyoming		
1	54.8%	64.5%