



September 29, 2015

TO: Members, Subcommittee on Health

FROM: Committee Majority Staff

RE: Hearing entitled “Examining Potential Ways to Improve the Medicare Program”

I. INTRODUCTION

On October 1, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. in 2322 Rayburn House Office Building, the Subcommittee on Health will hold a hearing entitled “Examining Potential Ways to Improve the Medicare Program.”

II. WITNESSES

- Sarah Myers, CAE, Oregon Association of Health Care, Executive Director;
- Dr. Bruce Gould, Community Oncology Alliance, President; and
- Sandra Norby, PT, AT, HomeTown Physical Therapy, LLC, Owner.

III. BACKGROUND

A. H.R. 556, Prevent Interruptions in Physical Therapy Act of 2015

H.R. 556, “Prevent Interruptions in Physical Therapy Act of 2015,” was introduced by Representative Gus M. Bilirakis (R-FL) and Representative Ben R. Lujan (D-NM). Current Medicare law allows a wide range of medical providers, including doctors of medicine, osteopathy, chiropractic, and podiatry, the latitude to bring in other licensed professionals under their provider number for reasons including illness, pregnancy, or vacation. Such instances are referred to as locum tenens arrangements. Physical therapists (PTs) currently are excluded from employing locum tenens in their practices. H.R.556 would include PTs in the list of providers who can enter in locum tenens arrangements.

B. H.R. 1934, Cancer Care Payment Reform Act of 2015

H.R. 1934, “Cancer Care Payment Reform Act,” was authored by Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) and Representative Steve Israel (D-NY). H.R. 1934 would build on the promise of new provider delivery model development envisioned in the SGR replacement policy enacted as part of Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) earlier this

year. The bill would establish a national Oncology Medical Home Demonstration Project for the purpose of changing Medicare payments for cancer care.

C. H.R. _____, a bill to make changes to the Medicare home health face-to-face encounter requirements

This discussion draft, authored by Representative Greg Walden (R-OR), would make changes to documentation and face-to-face requirements for home health providers under the Medicare program.

IV. STAFF CONTACTS

If you have any questions regarding this hearing, please contact Robert Horne or Adrianna Simonelli at (202) 225-2927.