

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 11, 2014

The Honorable Marilyn Tavenner
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Administrator Tavenner:

The availability of home healthcare services is important to millions of frail elderly and disabled patients across our nation. It is important that laws set by Congress and rules and regulations administered by the executive branch take proper care of the issues which affect the access to care for this community. As such, we write to express our comments on the 2015 proposed Home Health Prospective Payment System (HHPPS) rule by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) which will be finalized in the coming months and take effect on January 1, 2015.

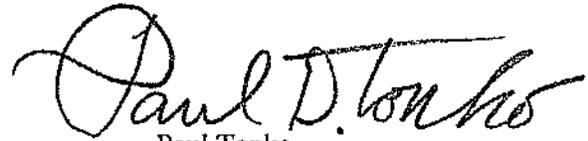
We acknowledge that progress was made towards eliminating the required physician narrative as part of the Face-to-Face (F2F) requirement in the 2015 proposed HHPPS rule and support the inclusion of this provision in the final rule. However, concerns remain over the providers and patients whose claims are still being denied due to an insufficient physician narrative while they wait for the rule to be finalized. CMS signaled with the proposed rule that it intends to no longer enforce the physician narrative requirement. Therefore, we urge CMS to suspend audits related to the physician narrative beginning with the date that the 2015 proposed HHPPS rule went on display (July 1, 2014). Similarly, in light of the changes announced in the proposed rule, we urge CMS to establish a process that would allow providers to receive full reimbursement if a claim was previously denied for an "insufficient physician narrative."

As Representatives concerned about the impact that the final 2015 HHPPS rule from CMS will have on the ability of the elderly and disabled to receive proper care and treatment through home healthcare services, we appreciate your attention to this matter.

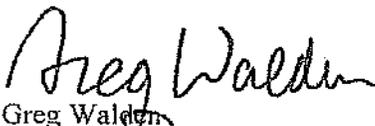
Sincerely,



Tom Reed
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



Greg Walden
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress

Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

Tim Murphy
Member of Congress

Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress

Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

Diane Black
Member of Congress

Allyson Y. Schwartz
Member of Congress

Mike Kelly
Member of Congress

Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress

Tim Griffin
Member of Congress

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Bill Shuster
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Chris Gibson
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Charles W. Dent
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Peter King
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress

Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress

Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress

Sam Farr
Member of Congress

Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress

William L. Owens
Member of Congress

Steve Womack
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress

Mike Coffman
Member of Congress

Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress

Michael G. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Ann M. Kuster
Member of Congress

Walter Jones
Member of Congress

André Carson
Member of Congress

Keith Rothfus
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress

Bradley Byrne M.C.
Member of Congress

William R. Keating
Member of Congress

Lou Barletta
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

Austin Scott
Member of Congress

Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress

Steve Daines
Member of Congress

John F. Tierney
Member of Congress

Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress

Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress



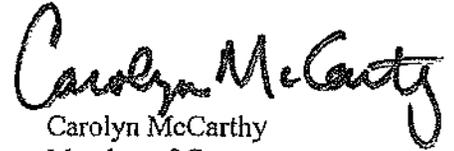
Scott Perry
Member of Congress



Steve Israel
Member of Congress



Colleen W. Hanabusa
Member of Congress



Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



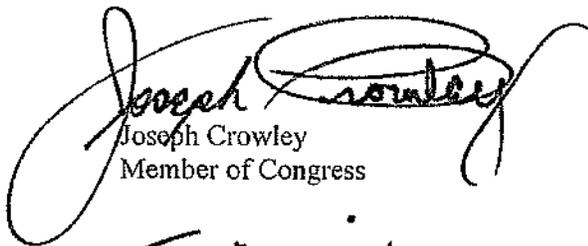
Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress



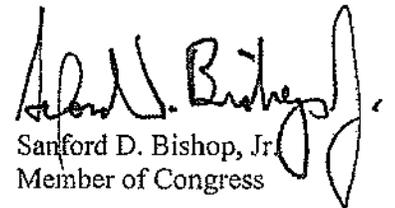
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



David Loebsack
Member of Congress



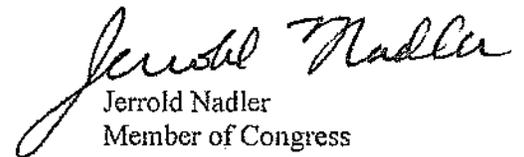
Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



Timothy H. Bishop
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress