

The Pre-Claim Undermines Seniors' Health (PUSH) Act

Partnership for
Quality Home
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WHAT The PUSH Act is legislation to delay the Medicare demonstration for Pre-Claim Review of home health services for one year to allow Congress, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and home health stakeholders to work together to strengthen the program and improve education to ensure patient care is not compromised and individual beneficiaries are not unjustly denied coverage.

WHY The Medicare home health community remains concerned that a mandatory Pre-Claim Review demonstration could result in care delays for patients. On August 3, the program took effect in Illinois and since then providers have reported significant challenges to navigating the program's requirements and documented roadblocks impacting patient care.

HOW While the implementation of the program has already been delayed in other States, home health community leaders feel an additional year delay would offer the time needed to adequately prepare patients, providers and taxpayers for Pre-Claim Review. Specifically, the legislation will:

- Delay the application of the demonstration so it does not apply to episodes of care beginning earlier than one year after the earliest date that the demonstration was scheduled to begin in each State;
- Call on the Secretary to suspend the demonstration in a State for at least one year if the Pre-Claim Review demonstration is underway at time of enactment; and
- Call for a report to Congress no later than six months after the date of enactment to analyze the impact of Medicare Pre-Claim Review in any State in which it was implemented, describe the resources provided to physicians and home health agencies to conduct the demonstration, and outline alternative measures to identify improper payments with possible corrective actions.

WHEN The time to enact this critical piece of legislation is now during the final weeks of the 114th Congress. It's imperative to protect patient care by allowing for more collaboration to smoothly implement this program.

The Partnership and home health community stand ready to work with Congress and the Administration to see that the PUSH ACT is enacted to, most importantly, protect patient care.

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