



Caring that Feels Right at Home

August 4, 2010

Dear Congressional Health Care Staff:

The American Association for Homecare (AAHomecare) urges Congress to request information from the Administration that will provide transparency in the competitive bidding program for durable medical equipment (DME). On July 1, 2010, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the Round One re-bid single payment amounts for the DME competitive bidding program. At the time, CMS touted a 32 percent savings from the bidding process.

AAHomecare is very concerned that these bid rates are unsustainable and will negatively impact patients' access to the home medical equipment that they need. Unfortunately, CMS has not released any detailed information regarding the determination of the bid rates or process, including indentifying DME providers that were offered contracts.

It is the understanding of the Association that a number of members of Congress are concerned as well with the re-bid process and would like CMS to provide information so the impact on Medicare patients can be determined.

AAHomecare is pleased that Representative Jason Altmire and Representative Ralph Hall are spearheading a congressional sign-on letter requesting CMS release the list of the providers whose bids were used to calculate the single payment amounts under the re-bid of Round One of the competitive bidding program for DME. AAHomecare is strongly urging other members of Congress to sign on to this important letter to CMS. Specifically, the Association respectfully requests that your office contact Representative Altmire or Representative Hall's staff by August 9 and agree to sign the Congressional letter.

Please find the attached CMS sign-on letter and "dear colleague" letter recently sent by Representatives Altmire and Hall.

If have any questions regarding the CMS sign-on letter or need more information about the DME competitive bidding program, please contact Jay Witter at jayw@aahomecare.org or Stacey Harms at staceyh@aahomecare.org .

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tyler J. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

Tyler J. Wilson
President