



*Caring that Feels Right at Home*

# Media Advisory

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## Media Advisory

### **Senators Specter and Cornyn Will Discuss Medicare Issues at American Association for Homecare Legislative Conference, June 2-3, 2009**

ARLINGTON, VA, June 1, 2009----- Senators Arlen Specter (D-Pa.) and John Cornyn (R-Tex.) will speak to more than 250 providers of home medical equipment and services during the American Association for Homecare Washington Legislative Conference, June 2-3, 2009 at the Capital Hilton.

During the week, homecare providers attending the conference will recommend that Congress institute fundamental reforms to Medicare policy for durable medical equipment and improve Medicare program integrity in order to preserve access to quality home medical equipment (HME) and services. These reforms and improvements will assure beneficiaries' access to the cost-effective mobility and respiratory equipment and services and the medical supplies that allow them to remain in their homes and out of more expensive, institutional settings:

Highlights, below, all take place at the **Capital Hilton, 1001 16th Street, NW, Washington, D.C.**

#### TUESDAY, June 2, 2009

- **U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-Tex.)**, member of the Senate Finance Committee will discuss legislation to reform health care and improve anti-fraud efforts in Medicare (8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.).
- **Tom Barker**, partner, Foley Hoag and former general counsel, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will discuss Medicare issues (12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.).
- **Jon Glaudemans**, senior vice president, Avalere Health, will discuss the impact of federal budget issues on the durable medical equipment sector (1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.).
- **Maryan Amaral**, Ms. Wheelchair Massachusetts 2009, will discuss her perspective as a patient advocate (2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.).

#### WEDNESDAY, June 3, 2009

- **U. S. Senator Arlen Specter (D-Pa.)**, will discuss health care reform (9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.)

At 10:00 a.m., attendees will go to Capitol Hill to meet with their Senators and Representatives.

Specific recommendations to Congress from the American Association for Homecare will include the following:

- Prevent fraud and abuse in the durable medical equipment sector by enacting the aggressive 13-point Anti-Fraud Legislative Action Plan that focuses on preventing fraud and abuse before it happens.
- Stop the flawed, anti-competitive bidding plan for durable medical equipment, which will reduce access to care and put most providers out of business.
- Reform the oxygen therapy benefit in Medicare in order to ensure accurate payments and quality care as long as patients' medical need continues.
- Restore the 9.5 percent cut to the complex rehab (power wheelchair) benefit to ensure quality in this critical, labor-intensive area of Medicare.

*The American Association for Homecare represents providers, equipment manufacturers, and other organizations in the homecare community. Members serve the medical needs of millions of Americans who require oxygen equipment and therapy, mobility assistive technologies, medical supplies, inhalation drug therapy, home infusion, and other medical equipment and services in their homes. Membership includes providers of all sizes operating approximately 3,000 locations in all 50 states.*