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Americans' Views on Where to Invest and Where to Cut Costs in Healthcare: Harris Interactive Survey, September 2011

WASHINGTON, DC, September 27, 2011 ----- To gauge Americans' views about federal spending priorities for healthcare and how the federal government should address the deficit in terms of Medicare spending, Harris Interactive polled more than 2,000 adults in the U.S. The survey was conducted on behalf of the American Association for Homecare September 13 through 15, 2011.

The results follow:

Asked **"Where should the U.S. government invest the most money to improve health care and cost-effective delivery of care?"** respondents replied:

- Community health clinics (37 percent);
- Patients' homes (24 percent);
- Hospitals (23 percent); and
- Doctors' offices (15 percent).

Given four choices for ways for the government might cut Medicare spending to help reduce the budget deficit, respondents selected:

- Raising the premiums high income Medicare recipients have to pay (59 percent);
- Raising the age people start receiving Medicare benefits (24 percent);
- Cutting Medicare spending on home medical equipment such as oxygen, wheelchairs, and other equipment and services in their homes (9 percent); and
- Raising the premiums all Medicare recipients have to pay (9 percent).

Asked **whether the federal government should "strengthen access to home medical equipment and services"** given its potential to reduce hospital length of stay and healthcare costs, respondents replied:

- Agree (79 percent);
- Disagree (11 percent);
- Not Sure (9 percent).

Methodology

This survey was conducted online within the United States by Harris Interactive on behalf of American Association for Homecare between September 13 and 15, 2011 via the QuickQuerySM online omnibus service among 2,028 U.S. adults age 18+. Results were also weighted as needed to reflect the composition of the U.S. adult population by age, sex, race/ethnicity, education, region and household income.

Full Text for All Questions

Have you or a member of your family ever required home medical equipment or services such as a walker, wheelchair, hospital bed or respiratory devices (e.g., oxygen, nebulizer, or CPAP machines)? Please select all that apply.

TOTAL YES	38%
Yes, I have.	14%
Yes, a member of my family has.	27%
No	62%

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Because home-based care can reduce time and taxpayer dollars spent in nursing homes and the hospital, the Federal Government should strengthen access to home medical equipment and services.

TOTAL AGREE	79%
Strongly agree	44%
Somewhat agree	35%

TOTAL DISAGREE	11%
Somewhat disagree	5%
Strongly disagree	7%
Not at all sure	9%

Thinking about the future of health care, among each of the following locations, where should the U.S. Government invest the most money to improve health care and cost-effective delivery of care?

Community health clinics	37%
Patients' homes	24%
Hospitals	23%
Doctors' offices	15%

Congress and the President are discussing ways of reducing the federal budget deficit. In order to reduce America's debt, among the following choices, which one would you most want the Federal Government to do?

Raise the premiums high income Medicare recipients have to pay.	59%
Raise the age people start receiving Medicare benefits.	24%
Cut Medicare spending on home medical equipment such as oxygen, wheelchairs, and other equipment and services in their homes.	9%
Raise the premiums all Medicare recipients have to pay.	9%

The American Association for Homecare represents durable medical equipment providers, manufacturers, and others in the homecare community that serve the medical needs of millions of Americans who require oxygen equipment and therapy, mobility assistive technologies, medical supplies, inhalation drug therapy, and other medical equipment and services in their homes. Members operate more than 3,000 homecare locations in all 50 states. Please visit www.aahomecare.org/athome.