NEWSUSA®

Phone 703/734-6300 • Fax 703/734-6314

Contract #: 6302
File Name: Homecare
Client: American Association of Homecare
Production Status: KC edits 8/15; JM edits 8/20; Client edits 8/25

THIS IS A DRAFT OF YOUR FEATURE.

Please indicate changes on this sheet and fax back to 703-734-6314 or send an e-mail with specific instructions. Please do not send unmarked edits in Microsoft Word.

TO APPROVE THIS DRAFT FOR PUBLICATION:

- **Review all copy for accuracy.** Give particular attention to proper nouns (especially names and titles), phone numbers, mailing addresses and Web sites.
- **Be advised NewsUSA edits and proofreads in accordance with Associated Press style and recommends clients follow this newspaper standard.** AP style precludes the use of items including: registration marks (®), trademark symbols (™), brand names in all capital letters, underlining, and certain uses of italics, boldface copy, parentheses or quotes. Deviation from this accepted newspaper standard will negatively affect your placements, and thus, NewsUSA reserves the right to pull its placement guarantee at the executive editor's discretion.

By approving this feature, you agree to hold harmless and defend NewsUSA from its content and publication.

**** IF YOUR DRAFT IS MISSING A PHOTO, DO NOT SIGN OFF UNTIL IT HAS BEEN PLACED IN THE STORY.**

If you are *completely satisfied* with this version, sign and return by *fax* to 703-734-6314.

Copy produced by NewsUSA is copyright-free and may be freely used as long as attribution to NewsUSA is made in its byline so usage may be tracked.

X_____

SIGNATURE & DATE
(OK to publish)
Signature anywhere on this draft gives NewsUSA permission to proceed with distribution "as is." Don't sign with edits.

Questions? Contact Genie Burn at 703-462-2041 or gburn@newsusa.com.

HEALTH

Healthcare That Feels Right at Home

NewsUSA

(NU) - One solution to skyrocketing medical costs is right in your home.

Business and government experts agree that receiving medical care at home is one of the answers to controlling rising healthcare costs, especially in Medicare and Medicaid. More homecare could help lower medical costs.

Medical homecare might help control rising costs from Medicare and Medicaid.

About 8 million seniors and disabled people depend on home-based care. Examples of homecare and equipment include oxygen therapy, power wheelchairs, hospital beds and diabetic supplies.

Durable medical equipment providers deliver equipment and services to patients' homes, often immediately after a person is discharged from the hospital. The home medical equipment provider promptly delivers the prescribed medical equipment and supplies, adjusts the devices, and provides instruction to make sure the equipment is used properly and safely.The provider is available for emergency help, additional adjustments and other assistance.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, care in the home is vastly more cost-effective than care in a hospital or nursing home. Studies show that homecare reduces hospital admissions and emergency room visits, which saves money for patients and for taxpayers.

A recent Harris poll revealed that four out of five Americans (82 percent) would prefer to receive medical services at home. In that poll, 78 percent of voters said they would vote for candidates who strengthen Medicare coverage for home medical equipment and services.

While durable medical equipment is the smallest and slowest-growing portion of Medicare, it is sometimes a convenient target for policymakers in Washington. Some believe Medicare prices for home medical equipment and services should be based on what a consumer would pay for the equipment alone if it were purchased on the Internet or at a discount store. But Medicare beneficiaries who require home medical devices, like oxygen concentrators, cannot simply order the equipment over the Internet, adjust it to the prescribed level and teach themselves proper use. Also, the home medical equipment provider must strictly comply with mountains of Medicare regulations and paperwork in order to get reimbursed for equipment and services provided.

Tyler J. Wilson, president of the American Association for Homecare, says, "Home medical care and equipment will continue to be safe and cost-effective as long as policymakers remember that homecare requires services and personal attention for seniors."

For more information on homecare, visit www.aahomecare.org.

INCHES 0 .5" 1" 1.5" 2" 2.5" 3" 3.5" 4" 4.5" 5" 5.5" 6" 6.5" 7"