



*Supporting Quality Health Care Services at Home*

# Special Alert

**October 1, 2002**

## **October 1 is Here: New HHA PPS Rates in Effect Today**

AAHomecare wants to remind home health agencies (HHAs) that the new rates for the Medicare prospective payment system (PPS) go into effect today. The reduction to home health resource groups (HHRG) rates is effective for episodes ending on or after October 1.

Although there remains much support on Capitol Hill to repeal the 15 percent cut (although the actual impact is calculated to be about 7 percent) in the next two weeks, according to a source at CMS, it may not be until April 2003, that the agency will be able to correct the payment changes. CMS sources also stated that, if the cut is repealed, HHAs will be refunded monetary losses incurred by the cut.

The new rates are available in the June 28, 2002 edition of the *Federal Register* located online at: [http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fedreg/a020628c.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a020628c.html)

AAHomecare is encouraging members to continue to call your Representatives and Senators urging them to act quickly to repeal the cut. You can access this information through the Capitol Connection link on the AAHomecare Web site at [www.aahomecare.org](http://www.aahomecare.org) or call the congressional switchboard at 202/224-3121.