



Supporting Quality Health Care Services at Home

# Special Alert

July 20, 2001

## Revised Oxygen Policy Released

Today, the four durable medical equipment regional carriers (DMERCs) released the proposed regional medical review policy for oxygen and oxygen equipment. Among other changes, the revised policy requires retesting for Group I home oxygen patients between the 61<sup>st</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> day of coverage.

The policy is published on each DMERC's website in the draft medical policy section and will be open for comment until September 14, 2001. Links to the DMERC websites are available at <http://www.aahomecare.org/govrelations/dmerc.htm>. Each DMERC will hold a public meeting in its region for interested parties to present testimony on the policy.

AAHomecare is particularly concerned about the impact this new policy may have on beneficiaries seeking to obtain recertification given the documented lack of access to and extensive waiting periods for oximetry testing. In addition, AAHomecare will be working with state associations and physician and beneficiary groups to submit comments and to testify at public meetings. We will continue to keep you informed.

If you should have any questions, please contact the government relations department at (703) 836-6263. Thank you!