



SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY **WEDNESDAY** IN WASHINGTON THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

September 1, 2004

Remind Congress to Support Homecare

Homecare is an important issue for every Congressional district in the U.S. Let's make sure H.R. 4491, H.R. 4902, and other key issues get attention. See www.aahomecare.org.

Open Door Covers Competitive Bidding, Home Health, OASIS, Homebound Issues

AAHomecare staff participated in a home health, hospice, and DME open door meeting on August 25. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced several items:

- The **DME competitive bidding website** is up: www.cms.hhs.gov/suppliers/dmepos/compbid/default.asp.
- If a patient's physician does not date a **rubber stamp signature**, the home health agency will need to add the date.
- **Home health agencies should use condition code 21** (not 20) on claims for non-covered services to get a quick Medicare denial necessary for billing another insurer. (See CMS 2003 program memo on codes 20 and 21: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/pm_trans/A03039.pdf.)
- CMS continues to implement provisions of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003, including the **homebound demonstration**, which will commence on October 1 (section 702 of MMA). Limited to 15,000 enrollees, the home health independence demonstration, as it is now called, will be administered by ABT Associates in three states, Massachusetts, Missouri, and Colorado.
- With regard to OASIS coding, CMS has **revised its policy on completion of MO440 and MO445** when a patient has a healed Stage

1 or 2 pressure ulcer (and no scar tissue in the case of Stage 2 ulcers on MO440), reflecting that they do not pose the same risk of future ulceration at the site as Stage 3 or 4 ulcers. See CMS's new policy, effective Sept. 1, at: www.cms.hhs.gov/oasis/npup.pdf. The OASIS manual and PPS payment policy do not yet reflect this change. CMS has also revised the FAQ section of the OASIS page to help providers answer 384 questions in 12 categories. See OASIS Q&A section in: <http://www.qtso.com/hhdownload.html>.

Competitive Bidding Panel Meets Oct. 6

On Friday, CMS published a notice for the first public meeting of the Program Advisory and Oversight Committee (PAOC) for **competitive acquisition of DMEPOS** items. The meeting is scheduled for October 6, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at CMS offices (7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD). Members of the committee have not yet been selected. The October 6 meeting will provide a forum for the PAOC to consider issues related to competitive bidding and furnish advice to the Secretary. The public can attend but will not have the opportunity to make written or oral comments at the meeting. But the public can submit written comments on topics discussed at the meeting. **Comments are due by October 13.** Address them to Sean Dalenberg, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, 7500 Boulevard, Mail Stop C5-08-27, Baltimore, MD 21244. Those who want to attend the PAOC meeting must submit a request by September 22 to Sean Dalenberg at sdelenberg@coms.hss.gov.

See Web for Inhalation, ASP Cost Study

For a press release and summary of the new study, see Newsroom at www.aahomecare.org.