



# Home & Community-Based Services Report

February 2009

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## Advocacy

### **[Stimulus Bill has Medicaid, Technology, Housing Funding](#)**

Last Wednesday, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which includes our provision for new technology grants directed specifically at nursing homes to implement electronic medical records and another section calling for a study of aging services technology. The legislation provides a two-year, 4.9 percent increase in federal Medicaid funding to help states avoid cutting their Medicaid programs or to rescind cuts already made. In addition, the bill would fund energy retrofitting in housing for seniors and people with disabilities. The Senate bill would give a 5.6 percent across the board bonus in federal Medicaid funding. The Senate is expected to vote soon, but the final legislation will require further negotiation, so be sure to [Contact Congress](#) and let your senators know why they should support the measure. Contact: [Marsha Greenfield](#), (202) 508-9488.

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## Medicaid and Medicare News

### **[CMS Finalizes Durable Medical Equipment \(DME\) Supplier Rule](#)**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized a rule that will require durable medical equipment, prosthetics, and orthotics (DMEPOS) providers to post \$50,000 surety bonds as a condition of participating as a provider in the Medicare program (74 Fed. Reg. 165, 1/2/09). New DMEPOS suppliers in the Medicare program will be required beginning May 4 to comply with the new rule. Existing suppliers will have until Oct. 2 to post the bond.

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## Adult Day Services

### [AAHSA Implements Listserv for Adult Day Service Members](#)

Do you operate an adult day service program, and you have a question about staffing, policies and procedures, marketing, etc.? AAHSA established a listserv that you can join to help you share your questions, concerns and innovations with other AAHSA adult day service members. To join the adult day service listserv, please [click here](#).

### [Children Can Improve Wellness for Older Adults in Adult Day Services Programs](#)

Produced and released by Heritage Day Health Centers, an organization that recently merged with National Church Residences in Central Ohio, this video demonstrates the benefits of mixing generations in adult day services. Intergenerational programs can reduce anxiety and depression for adult day participants. This type of video is also a fantastic marketing and fundraising tool for adult day providers.

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## **Home Health Care**

### [A Bold Solution to Help Consumers Have Choice in Long-Term Care Options: The Home Health Care Service Choice](#)

Home health services could help older adults that need long-term care services, but 84 percent of this group is not eligible for Medicaid, and other sources of payment are limited. So how can they afford to pay for home health services? AAHSA's Long-Term Care (LTC) Solution project, if adopted, would enable older adults who want to remain in their own homes to receive needed services at one of the 11,000 home health service programs in the United States.

### [Join the AAHSA Home Health Listserv](#)

Join AAHSA's home health listserv. This listserv is a forum intended for home health agencies facilitating member-to-member questions and discussions and a way to disseminate information on Medicare policy and regulations.

### [MedPAC Recommends 5.5 Percent Cut to Medicare Home Health](#)

The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) in its Jan. 8 meeting recommended that Medicare pay home health agencies 5.5 percent less in 2010. Concerning home health, MedPAC commissioners recommended that Congress eliminate the industry's market basket increase for 2010 and move planned reductions for coding adjustments to 2010 from 2011, meaning that in 2010 payments would be reduced 5.5 percent from 2009 levels.

### [Covenant Retirement Communities Expands Home Care Services](#)

Covenant Retirement Communities recently acquired Carlton Home Healthcare, a comprehensive Medicare-certified home health service provider licensed by the state of Illinois. CovenantCare at Home offers a wide range of services available including comprehensive therapies, home health care assessments by registered nurses, personal care, medication reminders, "Get Up & Go" programs, transportation, laundry and homemaker services, and companionship.

### [CMS Reissues Attachment D to Chapter 8 of the OASIS Implementation Manual](#)

"Attachment D" to Chapter 8 of the "Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS) Implementation Manual" has been reissued to promote accurate selection and assignment of the patient's diagnosis on the current OASIS (OASIS B1 [1/2008]). This document clarifies the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) expectations specific to the assignment of diagnosis codes to the OASIS as dictated by the revised ICD-9-CM coding guidelines effective October 2008, and the Home Health PPS refinements effective January, 2008.

### [Publication on Medicare Billing for Home Health Released](#)

"Medicare Billing Information for Rural Providers, Suppliers, and Physicians" (revised October 2008), which consists of charts that provide Medicare billing information for home health agencies, is now available in print format from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Medicare Learning Network.

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## Hospice/End of Life Care

### [CMS Memo: Advance Copy - Hospice Program Interpretive Guidance Version 1.1](#)

The advance copy of the Hospice Interpretive Guidance, effective immediately, represents the most recent guidance related to the 42 CFR Part 418 Conditions of Participation for Hospice. It will ultimately be published in the updated Appendix M of the State Operations Manual (SOM).

### [MedPAC Approves Recommended Major Changes to Hospice Payment System](#)

The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) approved a recommendation for a new payment system that would pay relatively high payments for hospice services when a patient first begins to receive the services, then reduce payments as times goes on. Payments would rise again just before the end of life. MedPAC said Congress should direct the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to require that a hospice physician or advanced practice nurse visit the patient to determine continued eligibility prior to a recertification for hospice services required after 180 days and at each subsequent recertification period, and that each new certification should include a brief narrative describing the clinical basis for the patient's prognosis.

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## PACE

### [PACE Featured in New York Times Blog](#)

A Jan. 8 *New York Times* blog contains an interesting article on PACE and the Comprehensive Care Management Corporation in the Bronx. The article promotes PACE facilities as comprehensive providers of quality care- an idea that AAHSA and its members have long believed in.

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