



**American
Academy of
Home Care
Physicians**



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American Academy of Home Care Physicians Commends CMS, Offers Information at CMS Open Door Session on the Independence at Home Act

At the CMS Open Door Session on the Independence at Home Act (IAH), the American Academy of Home Care Physicians, the professional society for doctors and others who make medical house calls, provided information requested by CMS on how these practices currently operate. The information was requested pursuant to CMS's plan to develop specifications for the Independence at Home Demonstration, due to start on or before 2012. This Demonstration will show the value of teams of doctors, nurse practitioners, PA's and others providing home-based primary care and care coordination to those sickest, highest cost, most disabled Medicare recipients who must be most effectively served at home as they have difficulty accessing office care. Demonstration programs must meet rigorous standards for cost savings (at least 5%), quality, and patient satisfaction. Successful practices that improve outcomes will share in savings generated by this program to help cover the costs of program implementation. This Open Door Session was consistent with the commitment made by CMS to Congressman Ed Markey (D-MA) and Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR), the chief authors of the IAH legislation in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, to implement the demonstration as quickly as practicable. Congressman Markey and Senator Wyden had written to CMS about this matter in a letter released on June 29.

CMS asked several questions regarding sources of referrals, how hospital care is organized, whether practices use EMR's and remote telemonitoring, what equipment practices own or lease, and what quality and outcome measures practices currently track. Providers gave individual answers on the call, and the AAHCP commended CMS for having the Session, and promised to provide the results of a member survey on these matters. This survey showed the broad referral networks already established by house call programs, the processes used to manage hospital care, the nearly uniform usage of EMR's, ownership or leasing of expected mobile diagnostic equipment, robust usage of evaluative measures of practice outcomes, and, as expected, given the current reimbursement, quite low usage of remote telemonitoring.

AAHCP Member who spoke included:

Kathy Kemle, PA
Jack Resnick, MD
Theresa Soriano, MD
Jill Studley, MD
Mobile Doctors

Shermaine Lawson-Baker, FNP-BC, DNP
Delbra Caradine, MD
Roger Lucero, MD
Thomas Parker, MD
Holy Cross Hospital House Call Program

Copies of information provided to CMS are available on the IAH website at www.IAHNow.com.