



Case Management Society of America

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August 27th 2012

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
1502 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC. 20515

Dear Congressmen Blumenauer:

The Case Management Society of America (CMSA) would like to provide its support to the Medicare Transitional Care Act of 2012.

Patients and their family caregivers face significant gaps and barriers when moving from one care setting to another. They often experience poor communication between multiple providers and find themselves navigating through the health care continuum without the support of primary care providers for care coordination and continuity.

Recent care models show that transitional care can be improved with enhanced communication between multidisciplinary teams throughout the health care community. Health care professionals engaging patients and their family caregivers in care planning, education and medication management, and share important care information with health care providers in a timely manner can reduce avoidable hospital readmissions and medication errors.

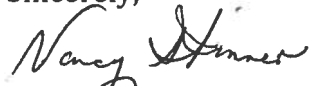
The Medicare Transitional Care Act would directly address continuity of care problems by increasing support to patients as they move from the hospital to their new care setting and would ensure that appropriate follow-up care is provided during this vulnerable period. Specifically, the bill would provide Medicare beneficiaries that are at highest risk for hospital readmission access to evidence based transitional care services that are provided by an eligible transitional care entity, such as a hospital or skilled nursing facility. Payment for these services would be linked to performance metrics to ensure that interventions result in improved outcomes, which will ultimately lead to reductions in Medicare spending.

The legislation also recognizes the importance of both the physician and non-physician health professionals, including nurses, case managers, pharmacists, physician assistants, and social workers, in executing efficient care transitions. Care coordination, improving communication, patient engagement, advocacy and improving patient safety are all roles and functions of case managers. We support the collaborative practice of professional case managers in delivering these services. We believe the Medicare Transitional Care Act supports multidisciplinary teams across the continuum to provide patients and family caregivers safe transitions and reduce avoidable hospital readmissions and medication errors.

CMSA believes the enactment of the Medicare Transitional Care Act will build on the work and progress of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and be an important step forward to improving patient outcomes.

Thank you for leadership to improve the quality in care coordination and transitional care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Skinner".

Nancy Skinner, RN, CCM
CMSA President